

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Straws In The Wind

TWO significant events marked the weekend—Mr. Malenkov's general amnesty to political and criminal prisoners in Russia, and the declared willingness of the North Korean and Chinese Communists to accept the UN proposal for an exchange of wounded prisoners of war. While they have no apparent connection, the simultaneous timing of the two announcements is intriguing, and may, perhaps, be reasonably taken as an indication that the new Soviet Government is prepared to support its declared desire for peace with parallel actions. It may be taken for granted that the Communist acceptance of the POW exchange proposal was dictated by Moscow, and the action is probably part of a campaign to persuade the world that Russia is ready to modify her policies in order to bring about some improvement in her international relations. The important aspect about the Communists' offer to exchange sick and wounded prisoners of war is that the note sent to General Mark Clark acknowledges the Geneva Convention. Thus, at the moment, the original UN proposal is being accepted without qualification.

WHILE the Reds have suggested that talks should be resumed at Panmunjom on the question of a Korean armistice, it is to be noted that this is not made a condition for dealing with the exchange of wounded POWs. The latest Communist move must be regarded as the first sign of the Reds' willingness to break the Korean War deadlock. It does not, of course, mean that a complete settlement will be immediately reached. But if the negotiators can speedily and satisfactorily deal with the POW exchange proposal, the prospects of agreement on a cease-fire would considerably improve. The Indian proposal is still available for acceptance by the Communists. It might even be slightly modified, without sacrificing its basic principles, to meet the wishes of the Reds. It is noteworthy that the Indian plan is based on the Geneva Convention which calls for the non-forcible repatriation of prisoners, and it is this convention which the Communists now declare they wish to see enforced in the exchange of wounded POWs. It is a concession of considerable importance, and encourages the belief that an entirely new attitude may be taken by the Communists in any future negotiations.

Italian Senate In Uproar

Rome, Mar. 29.

In a first-swinging session, the Italian Senate today passed the government's bitterly-fought electoral reform despite frenzied Communist attempts to paralyze the Senate with the worst outbreak of violence in Parliamentary history.

Final approval of the bill—and a simultaneous vote of confidence for Premier Alcide De Gasperi—brought an end to a session that had set a new non-stop record of 77 hours and 55 minutes.

Screaming, shouting Communists and their Left Wing Socialist allies refused to respond to the final roll call and the vote was announced as 174 for the government, three abstentions and none against.

The Communists immediately attacked the vote by calling a nationwide general strike for tomorrow.

The Communist-led General Confederation of Labour de-

POW REPATRIATION NOTE RAISES NEW HOPES

Important Principle Accepted By The Communists

Moscow, Mar. 29.

A sign of readiness to accept the principles of voluntary repatriation in the proposed exchange of the sick and wounded prisoners in Korea was published by the Soviet press today.

A footnote under a Peking dispatch on the exchange said the Geneva Convention on war prisoners provides that "consent must be received from the sick and wounded prisoners of war to repatriation while military hostilities are going on."

The reports contained no indication whether the choice by prisoners on being sent back to their own side might be extended to the proposed resumption of the Korean truce negotiations.

When the negotiations adjourned indefinitely last October, the main issue between the negotiators was whether unwilling prisoners should be forced to return to the side from which they were captured.

The Soviet press published prominently the texts of letters exchanged between the commanders in North Korea and General Mark Clark, Allied Supreme Commander.

The usual Soviet sources had not yet commented on the new moves in the Korean war. But the following footnote appeared below a Tass agency dispatch from Peking, giving the texts of the letters. "It should be noted that Article 109 of the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war obliged belligerents to repatriate severely ill and heavily wounded prisoners regardless their ranks or numbers after they have been nursed to a state enabling transportation. This article also stipulates that consent must be received from the sick and wounded prisoners of war to repatriation while military hostilities are going on."

PROPOSAL WELCOMED

Diplomatic observers welcomed the proposal to resume the armistice negotiations. They said they believed that chances of agreement probably were better now than in previous attempts.

Western observers welcomed the proposal as a token of approach to a problem which could lead eventually to an overall settlement of the Korean situation.

The tendency was noted among foreign diplomats to place the proposal in the category of various gestures of goodwill, giving evidence of an improved international atmosphere.

In that connection, diplomats sympathetic to the United States welcomed the confirmation of Mr. Charles Bohlen as Ambassador to Moscow. His arrival is expected to mark the initial stages of bringing the American-Soviet relations back to normal with a possible reduction of tensions eventually.

A Korean settlement, observers agreed, naturally would play a

paramount role in clearing the atmosphere for any far-reaching top-level discussions Mr. Bohlen might be instrumental in arranging when preliminary obstacles were removed.—United Press.

IN CONSTANT TOUCH

Washington, March 29.

American officials said today that General Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff, was in constant touch with the United Nations Supreme Commander in Tokyo, General Mark Clark, on the proposals for exchanging sick and wounded prisoners of war in Korea.

General Collins is acting on behalf of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Officials said it was not necessary for new instructions to be sent to General Clark. He has full authority to deal with the Communists' acceptance of his proposal for an immediate exchange of sick prisoners.

The questions of the forcible repatriation of prisoners of war does not appear to arise in connection with wounded prisoners. The Geneva Convention referred to in the Communists' message yesterday specifically stated that sick and wounded prisoners must not be repatriated against their will during a war.—reuter.

DEFINITE TEST

United Nations, Mar. 29.

The first definite test of whether the Soviet United Nations delegate, Mr. Andrei Vyshinsky, has brought conciliatory new instructions from the Malenkov regime will begin tomorrow morning.

The Big Five veto-wielding powers have scheduled a final secret meeting on the deadlocked problem of picking a successor to the Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie.

The West insists on a showdown before Tuesday because on Wednesday the Russians take over the presidency of the Security Council for April and with it the chance of hamstringing the majority.

Observers, greatly encouraged by the notification that the Reds are ready to exchange sick and wounded prisoners in Korea, saw the issue of Mr. Lie's successor as another area in which the Russians could carry forward their "peace" offensive without giving away too much.

The full Security Council meets on Tuesday. If no agreement comes at the Big Five session, the Western Allies are ready to write "Anis" on Tuesday to the current efforts to resolve the issue.

OPTIMISM UNABATED

The West plans to follow up with a General Assembly resolution asking Mr. Lie to withdraw the resignation which he tendered on November 10 and serve the rest of his term, until next February.

Meanwhile, optimism over chances of a truce in Korea was unabated today. News from Moscow that the Russian newspaper had published the Geneva Convention stipulation on the strictly "voluntary" exchange of the sick and wounded increased belief that the Red move was genuine.

Observers believed that this break in the persistent Red opposition to giving prisoners any choice about returning home might provide an opening that could lead to settlement of the overall prisoner dispute and bring about an armistice.—United Press.

Postpones Holiday

London, Mar. 29.

Sir Alvy Gascoigne, British Ambassador in Moscow, has again postponed his leave, it was authoritatively stated here tonight.

Sir Alvy Gascoigne was due to come to Britain on leave earlier this month, but postponed it when Stalin died.

He then planned to take his leave around Easter.

Foreign Office spokesmen tonight could give no definite reason why the British Ambassador had again put off his departure from Moscow. But observers here pointed out that recent indications of a more co-operative Soviet attitude towards the West might make it useful for him to remain in the Soviet capital for the present.—Reuter.

Escapade With A Tram

Vienna, Mar. 29.

A Viennese reveller who borrowed a tramcar for a four-hour tour of the city may escape punishment because of a loophole in the law, his lawyer said today.

Franz Ponwieser, once a tram driver, now a night watchman, had a few drinks on the evening of March 7. They gave him an irresistible urge to drive a tram again.

So he took one from the depot without being detected. When police caught up with him four hours later he had a full load of cheerful smiling Viennese citizens he had picked up at inns along his route.

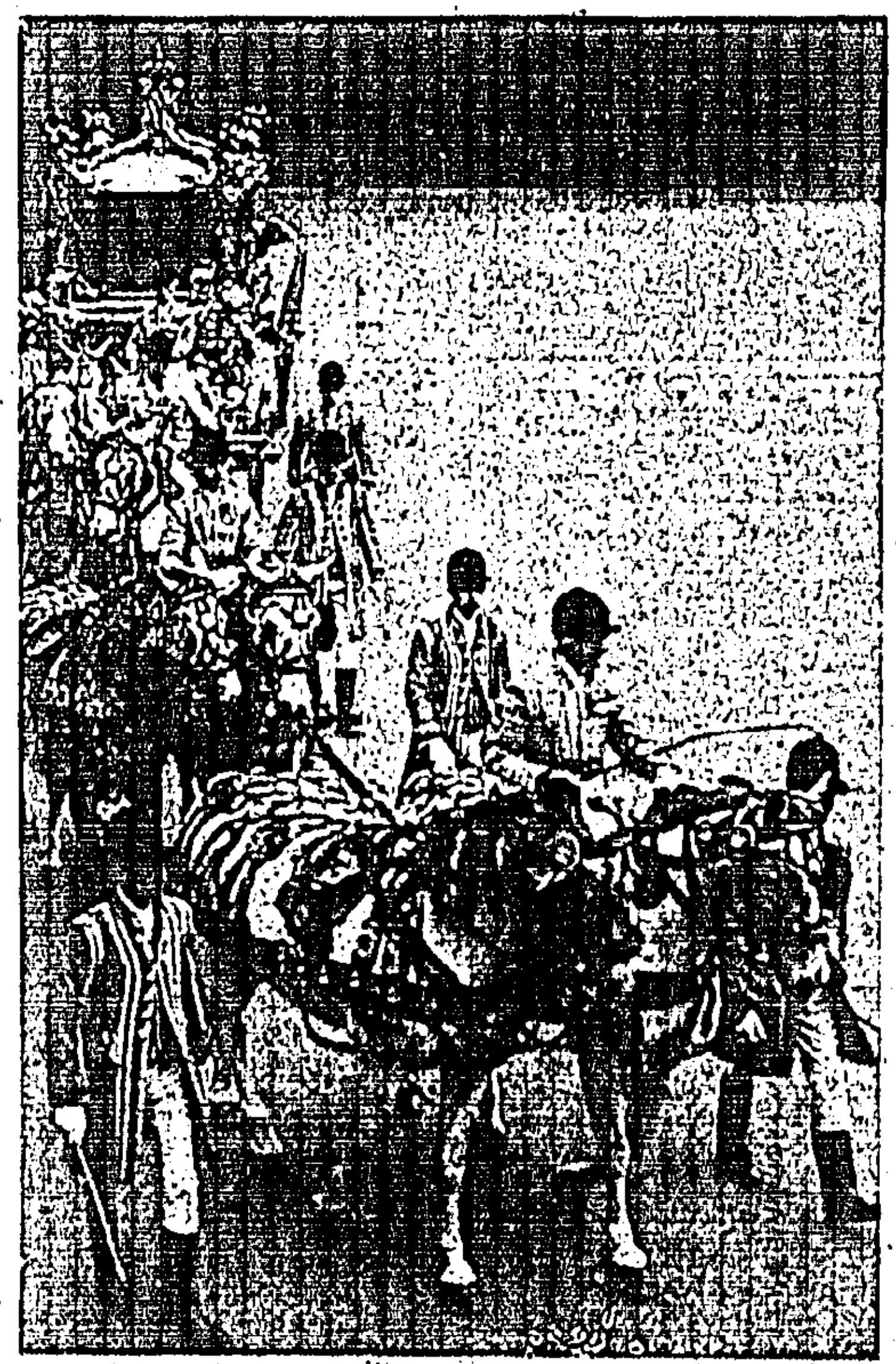
Police admitted at the time that he had carefully observed all the traffic regulations.

Now, the Vienna prosecutor finds there is no law in Austria against borrowing a tram or a railway engine. If an engine driver borrows a railway engine, he can only be made to pay for the fuel.

Ponwieser cannot be charged with endangering the public safety or being wrongly in charge of the vehicle because he is a fully trained driver and there is no evidence that he was drunk to the point where the law considers it dangerous.

He could not be charged with driving without a license, because he was no longer employed by the city tram company. Theft did not apply, as Ponwieser obviously had no intention of stealing the tram.

His lawyer said that he had asked the tram company for an estimate of how much electric current Ponwieser used on his excursion, because he wanted to pay for it.—Reuter.



The first pre-view of the Coronation Coach, in which Queen Elizabeth II will ride to Westminster Abbey, drawn by the famous light Windsor Greys, in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace.—London Express.

Queen Mary Lies In State LONDONERS PAY HOMAGE

London, Mar. 30.

The great pilgrimage to pay homage to Queen Mary, the Royal grandmother, who lies in state in historic Westminster Hall, went on through the night.

Yesterday, 322,791 mourners filed past the purple catafalque, lit by flickering candle light, in the vast stone flagged hall. But by midnight the queue, once a mile long, had dwindled to almost nothing.

Accusation Against US Embassy

Baguio, Mar. 29.

President Epifanio Quirino of the Philippines today told the US Embassy to keep out of the country's internal politics.

At a press conference, he denounced the Embassy for alleged supporting the opposition Nationalist Party in the current bitter election campaign.

Quirino said that at a recent Embassy dinner conference given for Atilio Stevenson, several Nationalists were invited but only one Government representative.

Eugenio Perez, speaker of the House of Representatives, said the US Ambassador should deny rumours that he has reached some agreement with Opposition officials on the candidacy of Ramon Magsaysay, Nationalist leader.

Perez said Mr. Spruance, the US Ambassador, must deny the reports or "it will be followed by important events". He did not explain the "important events" but it is believed he was threatening to ask for Mr. Spruance's recall.

Opposition leaders dismissed the Government charges as "silly canards" and as an attempt to drag the Embassy into political issues.

Ambassador Spruance and Embassy officials were not available for comment.—Reuter.

Contact Made With Mau Mau Terrorists

Nairobi, Mar. 30.

A composite force of the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Kenya Regiment, the King's African Rifles, police and tribesmen with bows, arrows and spears last night contacted more members of the Mau Mau gang which raided Naivasha police station, but reports of the outcome were fragmentary.

The gang is believed to have split into small groups and to be making its way north.

Lorryloads of Kikuyus rounded up in the police and army sweep on Bahati location early yesterday were being ferried north to reserves, while screening teams continued interrogating about 1,500 detainees in a barbed wire surrounded police camp here.

Police headquarters reported that a Mau Mau "intelligence team" last night kidnapped an African woman and a Kikuyu home guard in south Nyeri reserve and questioned them on the strength and organization of local home guard resistance groups.

FEIGNED DEATH

When the woman and her companion refused to answer the questions, a Mau Mau man killed her with a shotgun, police said.

The home guard escaped by feigning death when the gun was turned on him.

A Kikuyu headman on a European farm shot an African guard with a machine and captured two others when a gang of six tried to break into a storehouse for food.

A gang killed a headman in a Kikuyu location on the border of Fort Hall and Nyeri districts. Throughout the weekend European volunteers and reservists worked nonstop to erect barbed wire barricades around all police stations and posts in Nairobi.

All Europeans have been urged to arm themselves if they are not already in possession of pistols, revolvers and shotguns.—Reuter.

Rhine Crossed By Tightrope Walker

Strasbourg, Mar. 29.

A French tightrope walker, Charles Elieano, crossed the Rhine near here today on a cable stretched over the river.

A crowd of 15,000 people on both banks watched him make the 300 yard crossing to the German side in 25 minutes, then return in the same time.—Reuter.

Gunner's Brave Act

Seoul, Mar. 29.

A US Air Force gunner saved the crew of a B-26 Invader bomber from sudden death on Friday night by disarming a 500-lb bomb dangling from the plane's bomb bay.

Myron Youthey of Van Wert, Ohio, volunteered to disarm the bomb which hung by its rear shackle while the plane attacked a position near Old Baldy on the western front.

Shedding his parachute and Mae West life jacket, Youthey worked 40 minutes to secure the loose bomb and rewind its arming device. Then the plane dropped the lethal missile into the sea.

The pilot, First Lt. Vincent Laferla of Sacramento, California, said the arming propeller was unhooked so far that the crew was afraid to try to open the bomb bay doors and let the bomb drop.

Lt. Laferla said, "We were afraid that it might scrape against the doors and give the propeller just the few extra turns it needed to set the bomb off. That was the first time in 49 missions I was really shaken."—United Press.

No Trace Of Missing Plane

Nairobi, Mar. 29.

Search planes tonight reported finding no trace of a Central African Airways Viking airliner missing with 13 people on board today on a flight from here to Blantyre, Nyasaland.

A United States courier, Mr. W. M. Fisher, was among the eight passengers.

The plane left here at 7:30 a.m. local time and was in radio contact with Nairobi airport until it passed Mt. Kilimanjaro after which there was silence.

Search planes were sent out from Dar-Es-Salaam and Nairobi to search the wild area of the East African mountains about 150 miles southeast of here where it is feared the plane may have crashed.—Reuter.

Naguib Replies To Lloyd

Cairo, Mar. 29.

General Mohammed Naguib, the Egyptian Prime Minister, said here tonight that if the Sudan chose unity with Egypt, the two countries would decide their foreign policy together.

He was commenting on a statement by Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, British Minister of State, at a Khartoum Press conference that Egypt would conduct the Sudan's foreign affairs if the Sudan decided on unity.—Reuter.

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Socialist Policy Makers Determined Not To Be Caught Napping PREPARING NEW PROGRAMME

London, Mar. 29. The policy makers of the Labour Party are working against time on a new programme with which they hope to defeat the Conservative Government at the next election.

Now in their second year of Parliamentary opposition, the Socialists are faced with this problem: they do not know when Mr Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, may spring an election, forcing them to put an attractive, vote-catching policy before the electorate.

The Socialists want to be ready with their platform on paper, for many believe that the Conservative leader may try to test his strength soon after Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in June.

That event, the Conservatives are said to argue, will involve old traditions and a reminder of the nation's past imperial glory—feelings largely favourable to the Conservatives.

The need to prepare for this contingency could not have come at a worse time for the Socialists, who were defeated by the Conservatives in October 1951 after six years in office.

Labour is still seriously divided by the internal quarrel touched off by the extreme left wing leader, Mr Aneurin Bevan, who resigned from the last Labour Government because he considered that Britain was over-spending on rearmament.

Mr Bevan, an assiduous campaigner and one of Labour's best orators, has kept up a running fire for two years. Several times the arguments brought the party to the edge of a split, but always something turned up to restore at least patchwork unity.

Now that the Party is busy preparing a new programme, the shadow of Bevanism hangs again over the scene.

UNIONS UNEASY

Powerful trade union chiefs were dismayed by what they saw as a concession to unity by Mr Clement Attlee, the party's leader in broadening the first policy draft to include some "Bevanite" theories. The unions retorted by refusing to join committees drawing up the new programme.

Though traditionally loyal to Labour, they asked for more time to study the implications of future policy, and the meaning of their hesitation was not lost on the Party chiefs.

The party saw clearly that the Trades Union Congress (TUC), a giant federation representing 8,000,000 workers, was uneasy over possible gradual acceptance of Bevanite ideas.

So far, the Labour politicians have had "guidance" and nothing more from the TUC in their policy drafting, while TUC

theorists have been drawing up their own plan to cure the nation's ills.

The Labour Party wants to get its programme ready for discussion by the rank-and-file well before the Summer. The TUC has until September before it must report to its annual congress.

DANGER FORESEEN

Labour leaders foresee the danger that the Party will say one thing in its published manifesto and the TUC will say something different in September. The cleavage may come over further State control of industry.

The Party is believed to have accepted Mr Bevan's thesis that the nation should control more means of production, and it is likely that Labour's programme will call for nationalisation of engineering and other heavy plants.

TUC leaders are dubious about large-scale nationalisation until they see the consolidation of what has already been taken over by the State—such as coal, railways, gas and electricity—and they want to be certain that the wage-earner's pay packet will benefit from more State control.

In spite of these doubts, the TUC is bound by a rank-and-file vote at its 1952 conference to "formulate proposals for extension of social ownership to other industries." The TUC leadership opposed the resolution.

Any proposals which the TUC produces in September may be far less drastic than the demands for more nationalisation drafted by the Labour Party.

T.U.C. ATTITUDE

Both the Party and the TUC are seriously opposed to Mr Churchill's plan to de-nationalise the road haulage and iron and steel industries, which were taken away from private enterprise by the last Labour Government.

While the battle has raged in Parliament, the TUC has strenuously refused to support strikes and labour stoppages aimed against Conservative policy. Because of this, some left-wing members have accused union chiefs of being half-hearted in their opposition to Mr Churchill.

But the TUC says that it is bound to look after workers' interests and get the best deal possible, no matter what Party is in power. There has been little friction between the TUC and the Government in day-to-day working since the Conservatives came to power, and Mr Churchill has done his best to make friends with the unions.

The Conservative move towards de-nationalisation has angered the unions, but the TUC is prepared to make the best of what it considers a bad job. In any case, some union chiefs were never convinced of the need for the State to take over the steel mills.

Relations between the Labour Party and the TUC have also been strained by a Bevanite slip-lane attack against TUC leaders and the Party has been forced to make a formal demand to its orators to be less rough-tongued when talking about trade union affairs.

The Labour Party's 8,000,000 members are now waiting for the policy platform to appear on paper, an event which may start the most heated controversy in the Party since its formation 50 years ago.—Reuter.

Joint European Scientific Project

Rome, Mar. 29. Representatives of nine European countries will meet here tomorrow to complete plans for a huge nuclear research laboratory in Geneva.

They will come from Belgium, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Norway, Holland, Western Germany, Sweden and Switzerland to attend the fifth session of the European Council for Nuclear Research.

The completed laboratory, in which scientists from all nine countries will work together without secrets, is intended for a search into the primary cells of living matter.—Reuter.

Stevenson Advice To Philippines

Manila, Mar. 29. The United States Democratic Party leader, Mr Adlai Stevenson, today urged a rapprochement between the Philippines and Japan in the interest of world peace.

Mr Stevenson, now on an Orient tour, made the plea to Philippine Government leaders in Baguio where he was the luncheon guest of Philippine President Elpidio Quirino.

Mr Stevenson told Philippine officials: "There must be ways these two countries can help themselves despite all bitterness left behind by atrocities perpetrated here not long ago."

He said the two countries were complementary economically—Japan industrial and the Philippines basically agricultural, Japan desperately in need, the Philippines in the infancy of enormous and rich development.

"All this is important to us because these are vast areas to which the United States must look in its mission for understanding and for common thought," Mr Stevenson said. In a pre-lunch talk with the Philippine officials Mr Stevenson said the United States Republic Administration could not fulfill the election promise to reduce taxes.

He said the Republicans were not reactionary and could not retreat from the social progress policies initiated by the Democratic New Deal Administration. Mr Stevenson is leaving Baguio tomorrow for the United States Air Force base at Clark Field, north of Manila, whence he will fly to Indo-China later in the day.—Reuter.

Jehovah's Witnesses Sentenced

Paris, Mar. 29. The Czech news agency reported from Prague today that eight members of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect, which is banned in Czechoslovakia, had been sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to 18 years after confessing to crimes against the common law, treason and espionage.

The agency report said that the Jehovah's Witnesses, although banned in 1949, had continued its activities and was controlled from Brooklyn in the United States.

The prisoners, all of whom had Czechoslovak names, were alleged to have been "chiefly among the uneducated classes, persuading them to stay away from public demonstrations, not to join the peace parliaments' movement and not to serve with the flag."

They were also alleged to have formed an intelligence service throughout the country which fed information to Brooklyn and foreign political leaders.—France-Press.

GREAT TREK IN REVERSE

Brisbane, Mar. 29. The biggest movement of cattle from Queensland, Australia, to the Northern Territory this century is expected to begin in a fortnight.

Territory cattlemen will be driving back thousands of their breeders which they overlanded to Queensland to escape the territory's two-year drought. With the drought ended, all is ready for the great trek in reverse.

Stock routes that were death traps a few months ago are now well grassed and watered and almost dry enough for driving cattle.—Reuter.

U.S. PREPARING FOR VISIT OF DR ADENAUER

Washington, Mar. 29. Hard-pressed foreign policy chiefs of the new Eisenhower Administration turned their attention to the first visit of the West German Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer, after getting the French side of the two countries' dispute over the Saarland from the Premier, Rene Mayer. Dr Adenauer and his foreign affairs experts are due in New York on April 1.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden, visited Washington this month. President Eisenhower, Secretary of State Dulles and other Cabinet members joined the three days talks with the French. Over the week-end Mr Mayer and the Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, went to Ottawa.

With the official United States—French statement stressing the importance of their seven-year struggle against Communism in Indo-China, M. Mayer called it the "misunderstood" war. While discussions were proceeding in Washington the Communists offered truce talks in Korea.

SAAR ISSUE. French fears were immediately revived that Red Chinese "volunteers" would be freed to attack their harassed forces in Indo-China.

The French—United States statement warned of "most serious consequences if a truce in Korea led to Communist aggression anywhere else."

The French have long wanted some such assurance from the U.S. and the material aid in arms and confidence that is expected to go with it.

No figures have been released officially but the U.S. will probably be burdened with one-third of the \$1,250,000,000 that is spent in guerrilla fighting in Indo-China.

The French got less satisfaction on the question of the Saar, now looming as a block to

one of the economic aims in Western European defence. France has only consented to the rearmament of her old enemy within the framework of the six-nation Western alliance.

None of the member countries has fully approved the plan and M. Mayer insisted the French Parliament would not either until the Saar question was settled.

U.S. POSITION. He also maintained strongly that the only Saar settlement satisfactory to France is one that will keep the rich steel mills attached to the French economy as they have been since World War II.

West Germany considers the border territory German and so far has been unwilling to accede to the French position.

The Adenauer visit will give President Eisenhower a chance to exercise his talent for smoothing international problems. There has been no official suggestion on how that may be done in this case.

The U.S. position is that no legal reason exists why a Saar settlement cannot be reached before the European army pact and the Saar trouble should be settled at the first opportunity.

The French and Americans found it easier to agree on these points made in the official statement.

1. Stalin's death has not basically changed the Communist threat to the free world.

2. France would not let her ships take strategic materials to the Chinese Reds.

3. European unity, as has often been said before, is the way to fit the West Germans into the defence picture.

4. France has many interests outside Europe and is to be consulted on several problems as she has been in the past.—Associated Press.

MAYER IN CANADA

Ottawa, Mar. 29. French Premier Rene Mayer arrived at noon today for visits with Canadian officials. He was greeted by the Prime Minister, Mr St. Laurent, the Minister of Defence, Mr Brooke Claxton, and other Cabinet leaders.

Owing to the death of Queen Mary there may be no official functions planned for Sunday, but Mr Mayer will be guest of honour at a private dinner in Mr St. Laurent's Ottawa residence.

Mr Mayer said at the airport he "came to Canada" with "greatest confidence to discuss the French point of view on the great problems facing the democratic nations."

He added: "Together we will seek the best solutions and we will open our discussions in fullest frankness."—Associated Press.

WILL VOTE AGAINST TREATIES

Bonn, Mar. 29. The Vice-President of the German Social-Democratic Party, Herr Wilhelm Mollath, told the Press today that Social-Democrats in the Laender Government would vote against ratification of the Allied-German agreements and the European Defence Community treaty.

He said that his party had done everything to obtain a decision concerning the constitutionality of the agreements but these efforts had been negated by the Federal Government.

It was this attitude, he said, which had led the Social-Democratic Party to ask the Supreme Court for a provisional degree forbidding presentation of the instruments of ratification of the agreements before a decision from the Constitutional Court had been given on the subject of their compatibility with the Federal Republic's constitution.

Herr Mollath described as a "simple trick" the recent decision of the Federal Government not to present the instruments of ratification before other member States of the Community who had ratified the agreements.

It was essential, he declared, that the President of the Republic should ratify them before the Constitutional Court had pronounced judgment on the constitutional dispute.—France-Press.

'Call Nurse' Phone Fits Under Pillow

London, Mar. 29. Hospitals are to examine a special two-way telephone which will stop patients in large wards from being awakened in the night by the cry of "nurse" from a sick patient.

The new "Call Nurse" telephone will be on show for the first time at the British Industries Fair at Olympia next month.

In the nurse's duty room is a loudspeaker and an indicator light for each bed in the ward. For each bed there is a microphone small enough to be kept under the pillow.

A patient who wants a nurse presses a button on the microphone. In the nurse's room, the indicator shows who is calling.

The duty nurse can then plug in and speak to the patient. The volume can be lowered so that other patients will not be disturbed.

EINSTEIN REVISES THEORY

Princeton, New Jersey, Mar. 29. Professor Albert Einstein has revised his unified field theory, it was disclosed today when the Princeton University Press published Appendix Two to his book "The Meaning of Relativity."

A scientific authority said the Professor believes his change is an improvement and makes the theory more convincing.

But Professor Einstein admits he does not know how to prove it—how to show that his mathematical equations describe real things whether inside atoms or in the whole expanse of the Universe, the authority said.

Professor Einstein published his "Generalized Theory of Gravitation or the Unified Field Theory" in 1950 after 30 years' work.

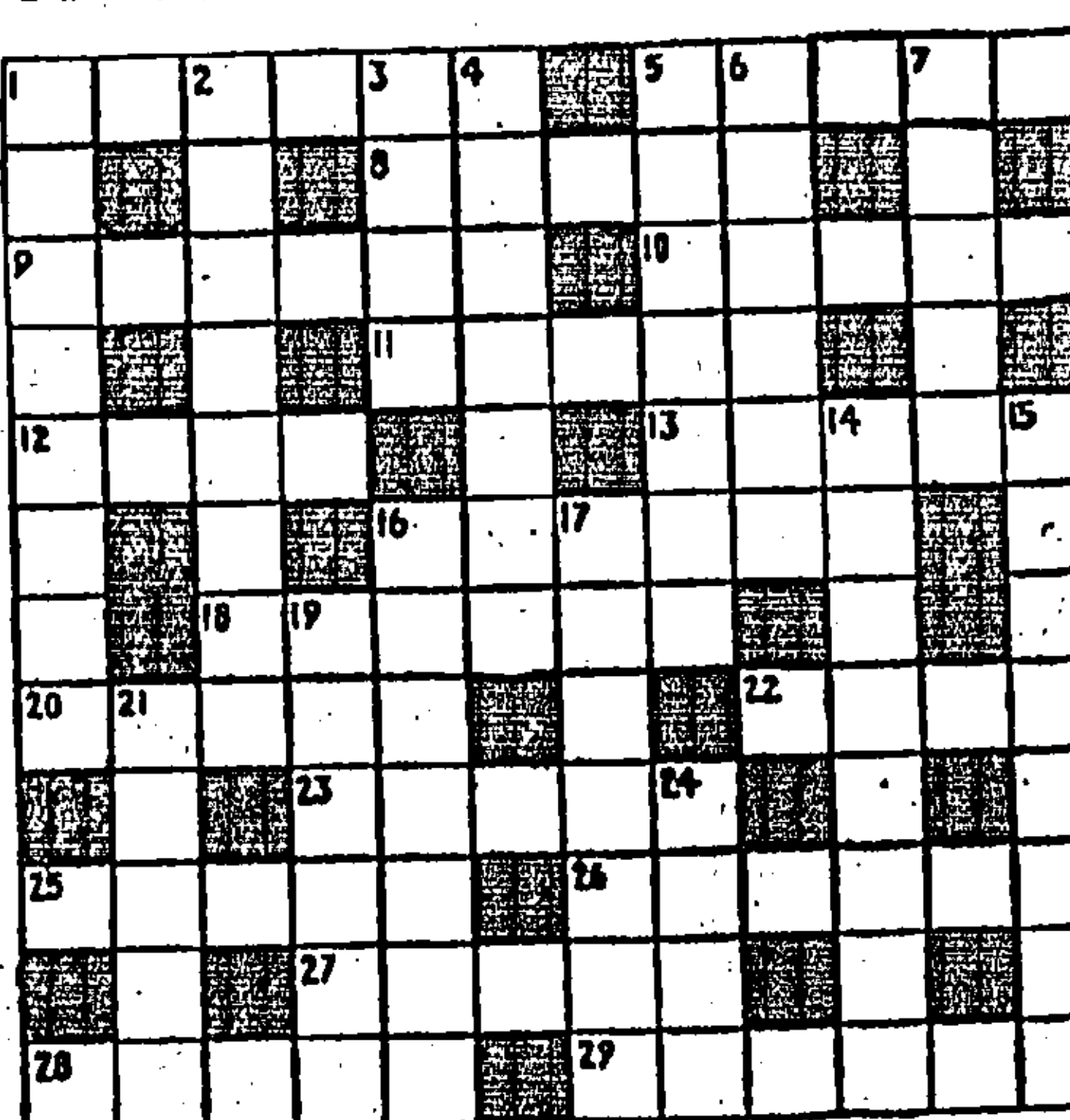
The theory is an expansion of the laws of gravitation to include the forces which form atoms and hold them together. These atomic forces are electricity and magnetism, or electro-magnetism.

But Professor Einstein, now 74, drew little support from other theoretical physicists.

Most seem to think it is a forlorn hope to try for such a unified field theory.

The authority described his revised, or improved, theory launched today as a "completed mathematical extension of his unified theory. The change is based upon using a method which compares different systems of equations dealing with the field of gravitation."—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- Current (8).
 - Rustic (5).
 - Bird (5).
 - Hue (6).
 - Boundary (5).
 - Man of wealth (5).
 - Intellect (4).
 - Clock before fire (5).
 - Feel objection to (6).
 - Tantalised (6).
 - Pay out (5).
 - Splendid (4).
 - Passenger ship (5).
 - Element (5).
 - Colour (6).
 - Condition (5).
 - Join (5).
 - Slender (6).
- DOWN**
- Hides (8).
 - Consign to inferior position (8).
 - Kid of lily (4).
 - See-soldiers (7).
 - Told (7).
 - Harmony (6).
 - Wrong (5).
 - Garbling (6).
 - Apartment-house (8).
 - Envy (7).
 - Choose (7).
 - Join up (6).
 - Arrange, as feathers (8).
 - Dance (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1 Legate, 5 Facts, 8 Axle, 9 Ascent, 11 Annual, 12 Ascent, 14 Flat, 16 Rhase, 18 Board, 19 Herd, 20 Remote, 24 Raise, 25-Averse, 26 Sagn, 27 Signs, 28 Eldest, Down: 1 Leap, 2 Gals, 3 Tans, 4 Extent, 5 Feature, 6 Content, 7 Solaces, 10 Astir, 13 Absorbs, 14 Farling, 16 Address, 17 Irate, 19 Homage, 21 Oval, 22-Eric, 23 Defr.

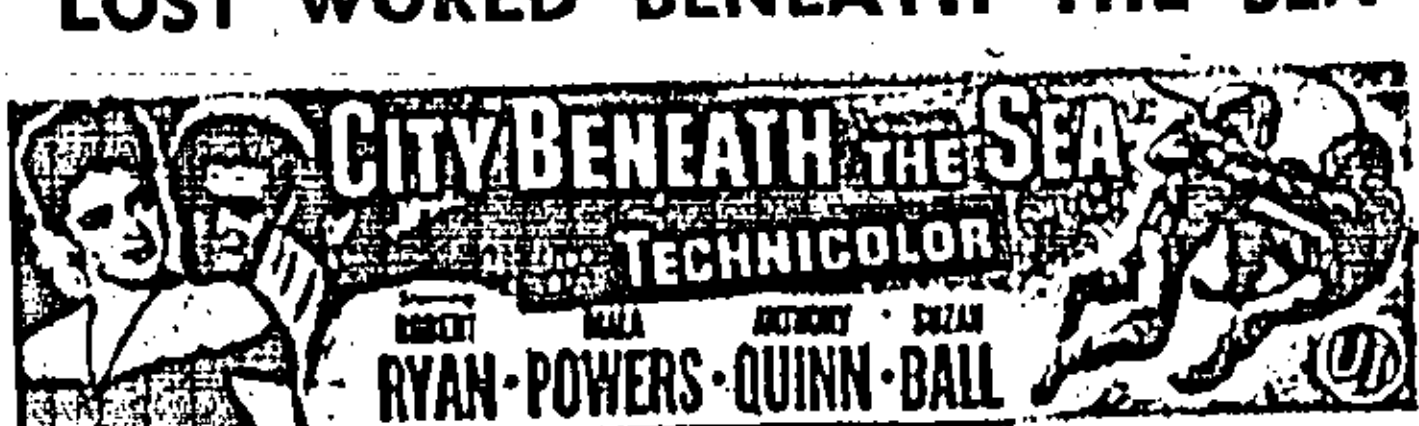
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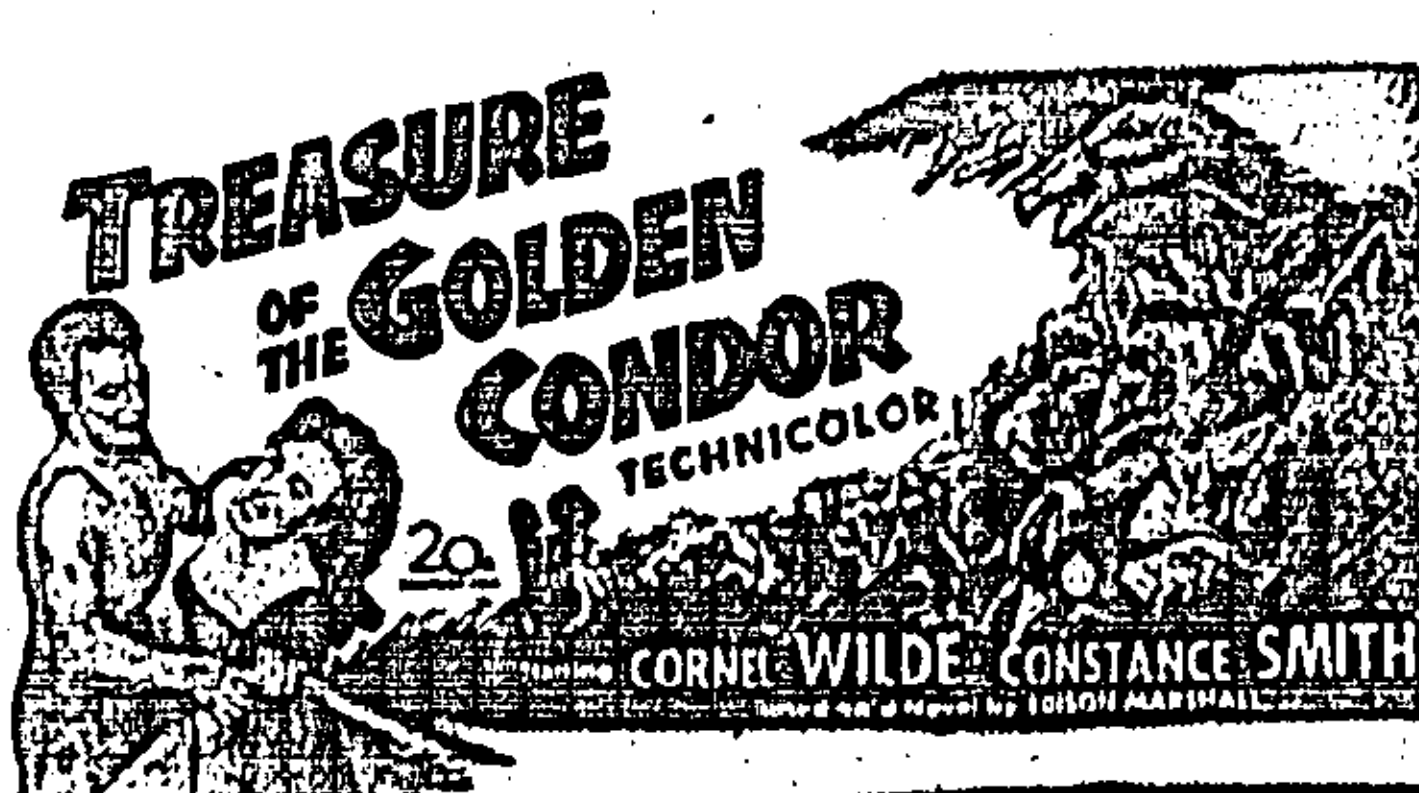


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In Celebration of the 4th Anniversary of the ROXY THEATRE, There Are SPECIAL PRIZES AND TREASURE HUNT at the ROXY During the Screening of "TREASURE OF THE GOLDEN CONDOR." (Further Details Are Announced in The Theatre Lobby).

COMMENCING 3RD APRIL (FRIDAY) AT CAPITOL & LIBERTY

Gala Premiere on 2nd April.

PART I 8:30 P.M. PART II 10:15 P.M.



STARRING
ROBERT TAYLOR • DEBORAH KERR
LEO GERN • PETER USTINOV
Screen Play by JOHN LEE MATHIN and R. BERNARD • SONIA LAVEN
Based on the Novel by HENRY BUCHHOLDT
Directed by MERVYN LEROY Produced by SAM ZIMBALIST
An R.C.M. Picture

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FIFTY YEARS INTO THE FUTURE!
Next Change: "PIRATES OF CAPRI"



Walt Disney's
Bambi
COLOR BY
TECHNICOLOR
COMING TO
THE
PRINCESS

STORM OVER SCOTLAND

By JOHN GORDON

UNTIL I crossed Scotland I had no comprehension of the destruction wrought there recently on one day of unparalleled calamity.

AT EIGHT A.M. on January 31 the day on which the storm overwhelmed the Stranraer mail-boat and the floods began to pour over East Angles—a 60 m.p.h. wind blew in suddenly from the Northwest Atlantic across Cullinness.

By nightfall at least 6,000,000 trees, nearly all of them 40 to 100 years old, had been sent crashing to the ground.

Can you visualise what 6,000,000 trees mean? Set in a strip 50 yards wide, they would extend from Aberdeen to London.

The storm swept across Scotland in a wide arc, passing out to sea north of Angus. The devastation done was staggering. Great tracts of forest look as though a tank battle had been fought across them.

TREES LIE heaped like fagots. Stone walls that have encircled estates for centuries and seemed strong enough to withstand the crack of doom itself, are shattered as if they had been swept by a heavy barrage of gunfire. I have rarely seen such devastation.

LET me tell you briefly a part of the story of those terrible ten hours. The wind which came in at eight a.m., with gusts up to 80 m.p.h., rose rapidly in velocity until by noon gusts of 102 m.p.h. were recorded. There are records—though not official—of 108 m.p.h.

The tempest continued at full strength until about six o'clock. Even then gusts of 70 m.p.h. were still frequent.

The shriek of the wind was so appalling that men standing close to great trees as they crashed never heard them fall. Not one human life was lost. And hardly an animal was killed. But some strange incidents occurred.

ONE MAN had just completed the building of a modern deep-litter hen-pen. In it he had 250 hens. When the storm subsided there was nothing left of either the pen or the hens.

WHAT peculiar quality made the gale cause this unprecedented damage? It came from an unusual quarter.

The prevailing strong winds in the area are southwest. Therefore as the pines grow (90 percent of the trees uprooted were pines) they develop their strongest roots to withstand southwest gales.

The north-west-to-north gale caught them on the side where their roots were weakest. And down they went.

The money loss is computed at not less than £3,500,000. But money value is not the true measure of the disaster.

THE REAL measure is that it has taken from Scotland, already heavily denuded of its timber in two wars, the trees that would be a vital asset if another war came.

For the trees lost were the matured trees which will take much longer than a generation to replace. Their high, heavy foliage took the full force of the gale because the velocity of the wind was far greater 50ft. up than at ground level.

THE heaviest sufferer is the Marquis of Aberdeen, who at Haddo lost 600 acres. Lord Cowdray at Duncricht and Sir Ian Forbes-Leith of Fyvie each had 500 acres destroyed, and 400 acres belonging to Colonel Nicol at Ballinzie, near Banchory, are completely devastated.

Other substantial losers are Lord Forbes and Lord Glenlaur. Each has had at least 200 acres of forest destroyed. The Queen at Balmoral lost 60 acres of wood.

One unfortunate consequence of that is that Balmoral Castle is now wide open to view from the road across the Dee.

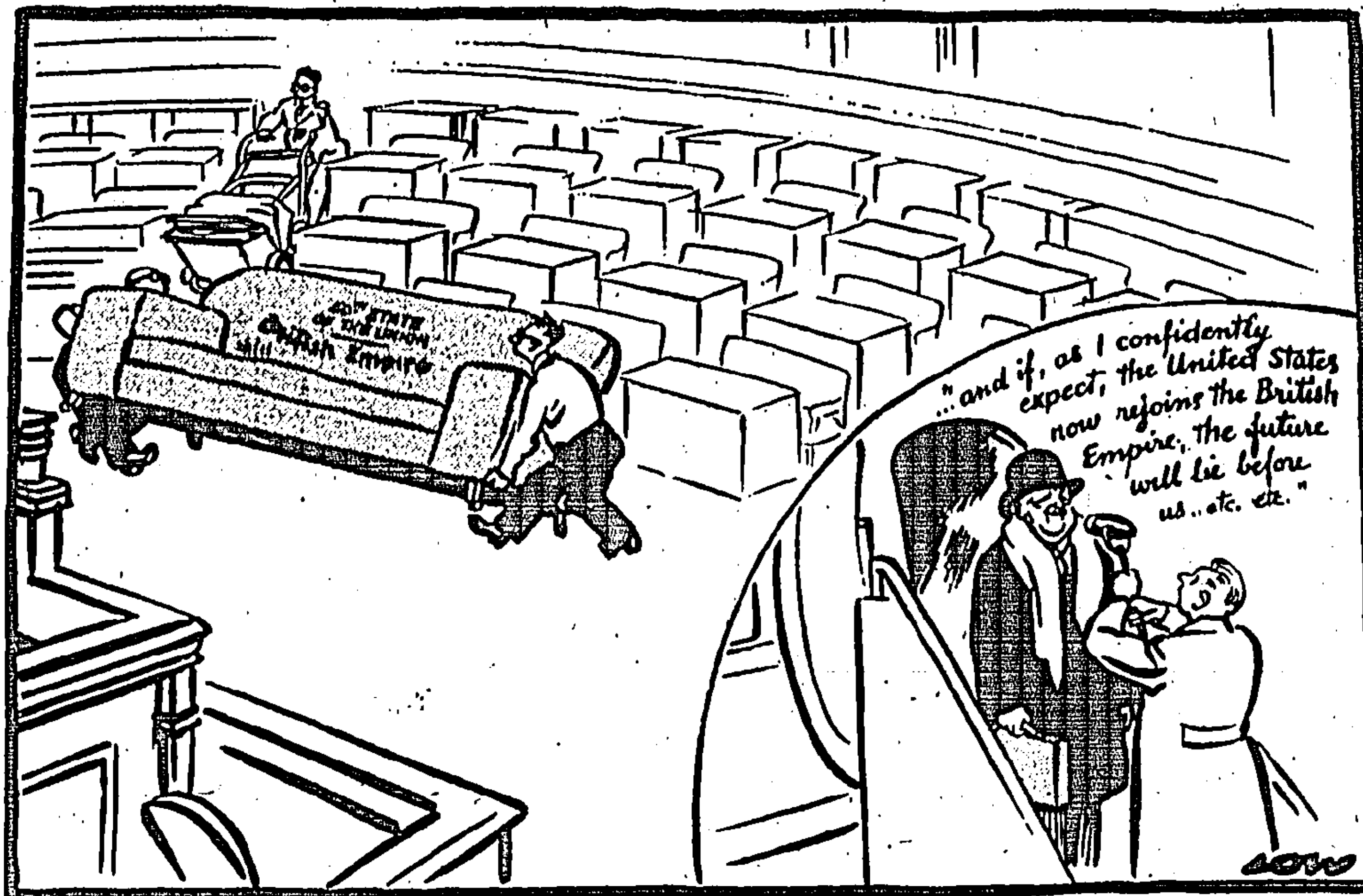
ANY STROLLER with field glasses can see everything that happens round the castle, which will be rather embarrassing for the Royal Family this summer.

Because of the disaster, all tree-felling licences in Scotland have been suspended. It will take the saw mills two years to deal with the fallen trees.

ISN'T it rather an awesome thought that a disaster so tremendous can occur 500 miles from London and hardly be mentioned in the newspapers of the south?

Had it happened in the remotest island in the South Seas all the resources and enterprise of journalism would have been strained to record in fullest detail the terrifying story.

Can you wonder that the Scots feel a little peeved?



RESULTS OF BUTLER MISSION

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GOTTWALD—he fooled them all...

REMEMBER the five bewildering days in Prague in 1948 when the world figures of President Benes and the younger Masaryk were swept aside? A new German-sounding name came to the fore—that of Klement Gottwald.

Who was he? At first sight, a stolid-looking Moravian type with a pipe and a glass of wine or vodka, and apparently bourgeois tastes—one of those old Communists who seemed reasonable and earnest in the first two years of peace. Said Benes: "Gottwald is a moderate with whom we can co-operate."

"But he fooled Benes," Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart told me. "He fooled Jan Masaryk. He fooled our ambassador, and he fooled me too, a little bit. He gave us all that impression of being a moderate."

Those who remembered the burly Gottwald before the war knew that he was always a frequent visitor to Moscow.

Back in pre-war days a question was hurled at him in the Prague House of Parliament: "What are you doing in Moscow all the time?" The most outspoken of the Communist orators fired back: "We go to Moscow to learn how to wring your capitalist necks!"

Ruthless

PEOPLE seemed to forget that he posed as a reformed character.

The Czech nation now knows him for what he was: one of the most ruthless men in their history. He killed his enemies and then he killed his colleagues.

Once I asked Gottwald's former Deputy Premier, Professor Jaroslav Strasky, who is now an exile in London, how Gottwald could hang so many of his close friends.

Strasky repeated a comment he had made to Gottwald himself: "If one snake does not eat another, he will not become a dragon!" And Gottwald had smiled, and said, "Interesting."

During Stalin's funeral Gottwald stood in the Red Square at the extreme left wing of all the satellite leaders, next to Bulganin, Molotov, Voroshilov, and Malenkov, and right in the middle of the picture.

In several reports issued by Moscow he headed the list of satellite visitors (for he certainly ranked second to Mao Tse-tung of China, who was absent).

Drank vodka

GOTTWALD knew Moscow especially well from his wartime stay, when he was so seriously ill from heart trouble that he almost died. His bullish physique pulled him through, and he went back to enjoying vodka in quantities which certainly did not improve his health.

It is odd how many old Communists return to see Moscow, and die—Dimitroff, now Gottwald—tomorrow Thorez?

Gottwald's own choices of medicine—vodka—and the brisk Moscow weather, with snow and winds, told heavily on him.

On top of that, Gottwald travelled from Moscow back to Prague in one of the Soviet Ilushkin transport planes, which are not famed for

Five days after Stalin's funeral another Red leader died suddenly. Here, written by a man who knew many of the men Gottwald liquidated, is an authoritative assessment of the Czech dictator who purged both his enemies and his friends without scruple.

comfort, and are alternately cold and draughty and scorchingly hot.

Ten doctors could not help him once heart trouble and pneumonia had set in. In two days it was over.

Czechoslovakia, with her vast industrial and armament potential, is the prize satellite of Moscow. But she is also the greatest problem child.

This was partly thanks to Gottwald, who at one time showed the most serious signs of deviation behind the Iron Curtain next to Tito.

In the case of the Marshall plan, Stalin himself had to prevent Gottwald from accepting dollar aid.

At the beginning of July 1947 the Czechoslovak Government decided unanimously to accept an invitation to attend the talks in Paris on Marshall aid.

Gottwald, then Premier, was immediately summoned to Moscow, where he went accompanied by Jan Masaryk.

Through a clever device Gottwald saw Stalin first. Jan Masaryk later put the matter in a nutshell: "I went to Moscow as a Foreign Minister, and came back as Stalin's henchman."

And the Prague Government was obliged to reject the Marshall plan.

Gottwald was wily. He saw what way the wind blew. He knew when to change his line. From moderation he switched to extremism. He schemed against the centre of his Coalition and broke the power of Benes and Masaryk in those five days in February 1948.

Secretly Gottwald and Rudolf Slansky, the secretary-general of the Czech Communist Party, mustered the action committees of the Communist trade unions. They called out their militia and marched them through the streets.

The students of Prague, moderates, were taken by surprise. They rallied and were dispersed with brutality. The police called at Jan Masaryk's flat.

It was announced afterwards he had committed suicide. But some people believe that he was thrown to his death from the window by police thugs.

So, ten years after Hitler's conquest of Czechoslovakia, Gottwald triumphed by the same methods, by pressure of foreign armies, putsch, and a signature forced from the President of Czechoslovakia.

Benes signed away the State and died soon afterwards.

Gottwald was left supreme with his comrade Slansky. But the dragon could not live with the snake. Gottwald feared the orthodox Communist mind of Slansky.

Gottwald was the last to denounce Tito for breaking with Moscow and the Cominform. He did so because Slansky held him to it, and even then he did it in most uncertain terms.

To gallows

YET it was Gottwald who put Slansky on trial, quickly, before Slansky could turn the tables on him, before Beria could intervene. He crowded him into the same dock with Clementis and other Western sympathisers.

It was nonsense to pretend that Slansky too had sympathies with the West like Clementis. But he went to the gallows with the rest.

So Gottwald in the end had no rival in Prague. He was a ruler on the pattern of Stalin.

And hardly a week after the death of Stalin the Russian winter caught up with the Red President of Czechoslovakia too on his last retreat from Moscow.

A pioneer of films pioneers the new Focals



IN a private cinema in a Hollywood film studio this week top film men from Britain and America will be greeted by a wiry, lean-faced picture-maker, Darryl Francis Zanuck.

He will press a button by his desk and the lights in the cinema will go down. On the screen in three dimensions Jean Simmons and Richard Burton will be shown in a scene of Zanuck's first focal film, "The Robe."

It will be the first demonstration of the 20th Century-Fox three-dimensional method of picture-making. Not true three dimensions—but giving the audience that effect without the necessity of wearing glasses.

Zanuck, the production chief at Fox and the company's vice-president, has invited a special audience to see the system which he will use for his pictures in the future.

It is typical of 51-year-old, 5ft. 6½ins. tall Darryl F. Zanuck that, while his competitors are more cautious, he should go all out in the new film-making style—and spend 5,000,000 dollars on "The Robe."

Zanuck quite directly says: "This system is not a trick or a novelty. I believe it will supplant all other types of film."

"It would have been easy for us to try to cash in on the public's interest in new devices by making a couple of inexpensive films, such as are now appearing on the screen. But we're spending a lot of dollars on our first film to show our faith in the technique we use to make it."

Darryl F. Zanuck will always spend big money to back something in which he believes. He had faith in "The Snake Pit" in 1944, which argued against American isolationism. The film made a hefty loss.

Zanuck still believed that pictures with an argument would make money, so he plunged ahead with "Gentleman's Agreement" and "The Snake Pit," and proved himself right.

Today he runs 20th Century-Fox studios, making 30 pictures a year. By working from 11 a.m. until 4 a.m. every day he sees every foot of film his producers and directors are shooting—all over the world.

When they film in Britain ("The Mudlark," "No Highway") he follows the progress of the pictures every day just the same.

In his air-conditioned working office, painted pale green, he strides up and down on a beige

carpet, dictating a flood of memos to three secretaries.

"Who is Roy Baker who made the British film 'Morning Departure'? Bring him to Hollywood for an interview." Or: "I like the test of British actor Michael Redgrave—let's build him." (Both Baker and Redgrave are now under contract to Zanuck's company.)

He keeps fit for his 17 hours' work by taking a two-hour nap between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in a sound-proofed room off his office.

Then, after a rub-down by a masseur, he usually dines at the studio with his wife or long-time friends.

About 9 p.m. Zanuck begins viewing the day's filming at Fox, calling for producers and directors as he needs them.

I have met him in France when he has been on holiday and he is still watching films. Either at Antibes, on the Riviera, or in Paris, he will hire a cinema in the morning to watch the rushes flown from Hollywood, dictate his opinions, and then relax for the rest of the day.

Says Ben Lyon, who was his British casting chief: "His memory is minute. I used to try just to remember a story after a first showing; Darryl knew where every close-up came."

His enthusiasm for focal films, made by the system his studio has bought, is enormous. Naturally he worked on the early talkies—"The Jazz Singer" with Al Jolson—and before that he was a writer assigned to provide stories for dog star Rin Tin Tin.

Zanuck likes to take film stories from newspaper headlines ("I am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang"), and pioneered the Hollywood fashion for making a film on location overseas.

Now "The Robe" gives Zanuck another chance to get ahead of Hollywood. Jean Simmons told him after the first day's work: "I felt as if I were on a theatre stage—the camera does not have to follow your movements. It remains motionless and attentive."

And Zanuck, an expert cutter of films himself, agrees with one of his production men who says: "With this new technique scenes in films will run longer, have fewer cuts and close-ups."

Zanuck the man is insured by his studio for £200,000; he is paid about £150,000 a year.

He likes big-game hunting (trophy room is next to his office suite), plays polo, and walks around the studio with a sawn-off polo stick in his hand like an army officer's cane.

Today his favourite game is croquet. Right in character he plays it on a floodlit lawn next to his house after dinner on Sunday night. Quite a focal effect.

IKE WELCOMES BEAUTIES

AMERICA COLUMN
from
NEWELL ROGERS

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER may have raised the dignity of his great office above the level of hot-tempered, wisecracking Harry Truman.

But on one fair U.S. tradition he has had to bow and admit defeat: he has failed in his hope of barring beauty contests, winners from the White House—when escorted by senators.

In a way the President has been beaten by spring, which brings out Washington's famous cherry blossoms—miles of them in the parks. And always a cherry blossom queen is chosen after hot rivalry between beauties from the 48 States.

Always the senator from the winning State squires her to the White House for a picture with the President.

So now he has relented. Quietly, word has been sent to Congress that he will be glad to see senators—with fair damsels.

UNDER THE HEADLINE "The New Isolationists," a leading article in the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers today says in part:—

Britons and Americans. Their daily intake averages 3,500 calories, compared to 3,100 for Britons and 3,210 for Americans.

But New Zealand, Australia and Canada uphold the Empire's hearty eating traditions. They are in second, third, and fifth places respectively behind Ireland.

Britain is 13th.

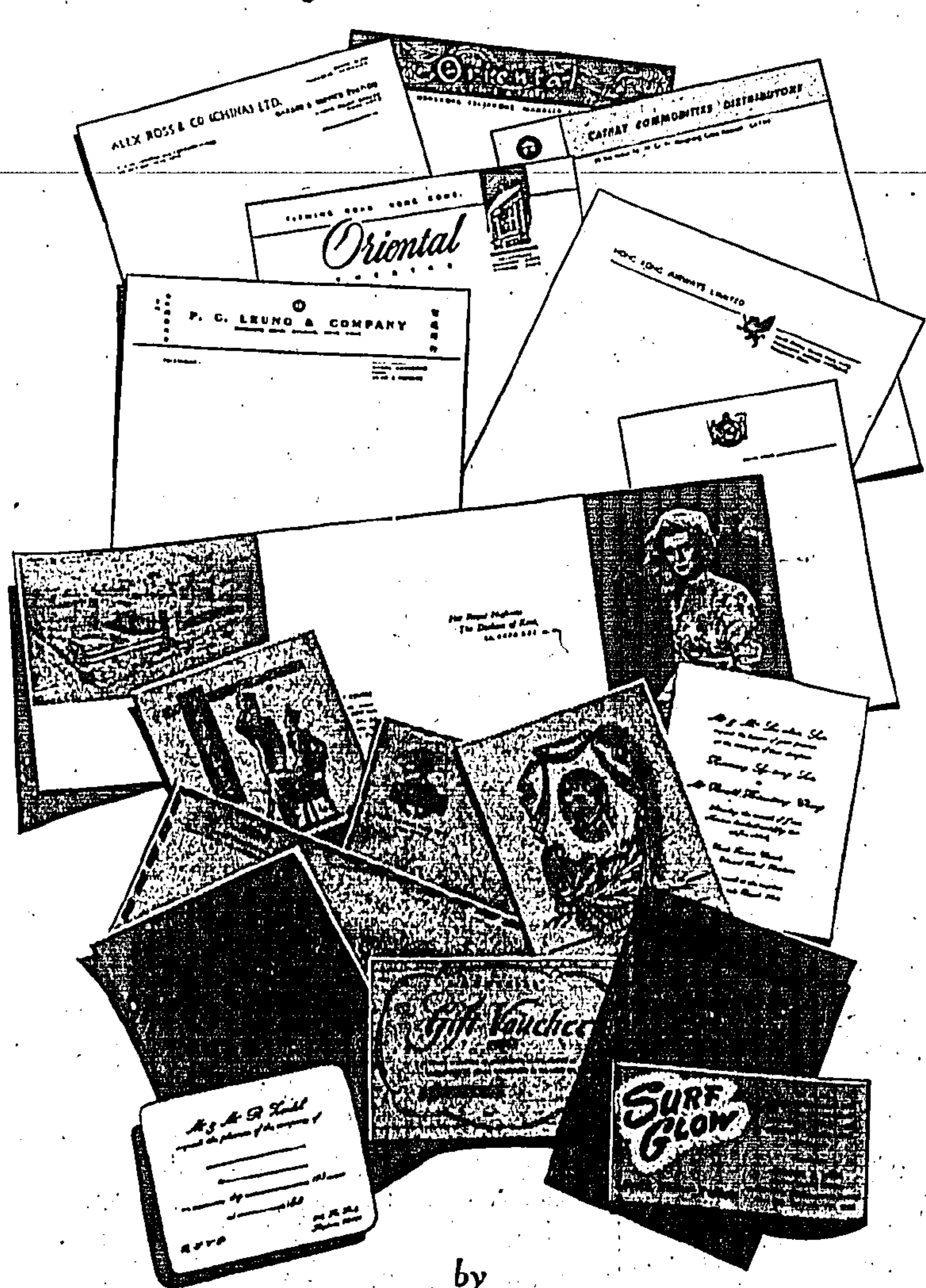
CONTROLS report: Removal of wage and most price controls last month did not produce any upward price movement.

A HAPPY WOMAN is Mrs. Rosemary Drabik. Her dream, shared by husband Henry, is already better than two-thirds true.

When they married in 1941 they wanted a family of ten girls. Nonsense, said the bright mathematical boys; the odds are 1,024 to one against a family of ten children without a boy. But now she has had her seventh girl baby. Odds against three more girls are only eight to one now. The new baby is named Maryrose. Her sisters: Marybeth, 11; Marykay, nine; Maryanne, seven; Marylynn, six; Marylan, three and a half; and Marypat, 21 months.

IRISHMEN are the world's heaviest eaters, far outchewing

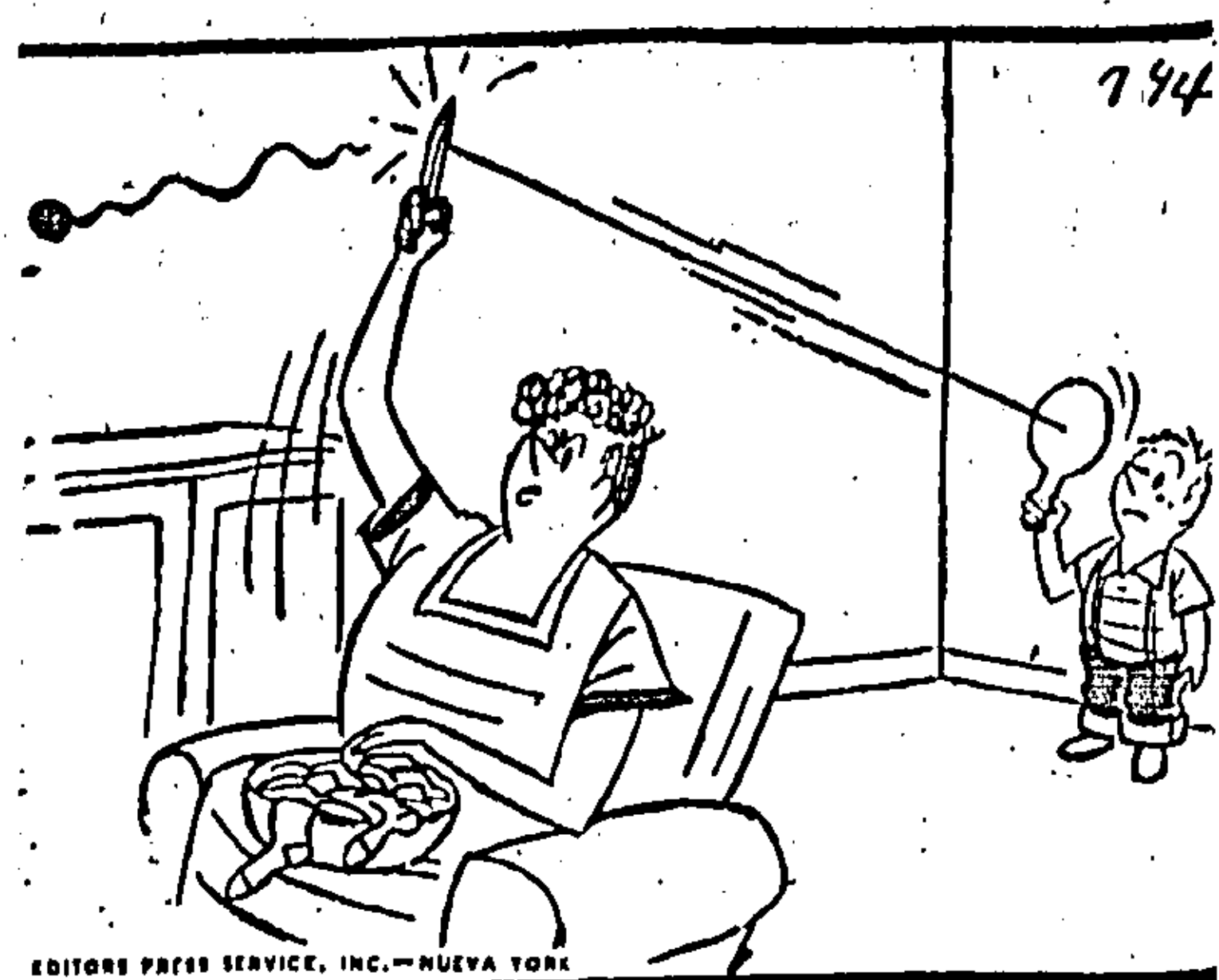
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OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES INVITED



JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Get A Bridge Treat:
Watch Great Play

BY OSWALD JACOBY

SIDNEY SILODOR is known far and wide as one of the best bridge players America ever produced. Hence when Sidney recently brought out a new book, "Silodor Says," serious bridge students prepared themselves for an enjoyable and instructive treat.

One of the points discussed by Silodor in his new book is the meaning of a double of a no-trump contract when the doubler has previously bid a suit. Such a double, Silodor points out, means: "Lead my suit, and I guarantee that this contract will be defeated."

In the hand shown today, as Silodor observes, West would surely go wrong except for the guidance furnished by East's audacious double.

After hearing the double, West is compelled to lead his singleton six of spades. (The only excuse for not leading a spade in this situation are a void spade suit and sudden death.)

This opening lead forces out declarer's ace of spades. South must go after the diamonds to have any chance at all for his contract, and East gets in with

NORTH		
542		
42		
AJ1073		
AQ2		
WEST (D)		
AKQJ86		
988		
9753		
EAST		
AKQJ109		
53		
K2		
KJ1088		
SOUTH		
A873		
A1097		
Q54		
K4		
North-South vul.		
West Pass	East Pass	2 N.T.
Pass	3 N.T.	Double
Pass	Pass	
Opening lead—A 6		

the king of diamonds in time to defeat the contract with the rest of his spade suit.

If left to his own devices, West would have opened the king of hearts instead of his singleton spade. South would have to win the first trick with the ace of hearts, and would then finesse the diamonds, forcing out East's king.

South would then have a second stopper in hearts, and could not be prevented from winning a spade, at least one heart, four diamonds, and three clubs.

CARD SERVICE

Q—The bidding has been:

North East South West
1 Club Pass 1 Diamond Pass
2 N.T. Pass ?

You, South, hold: Spades 3-2, Hearts 3, Diamonds K-J-7-3-2, Clubs Q-J-6-3-2. What do you do?

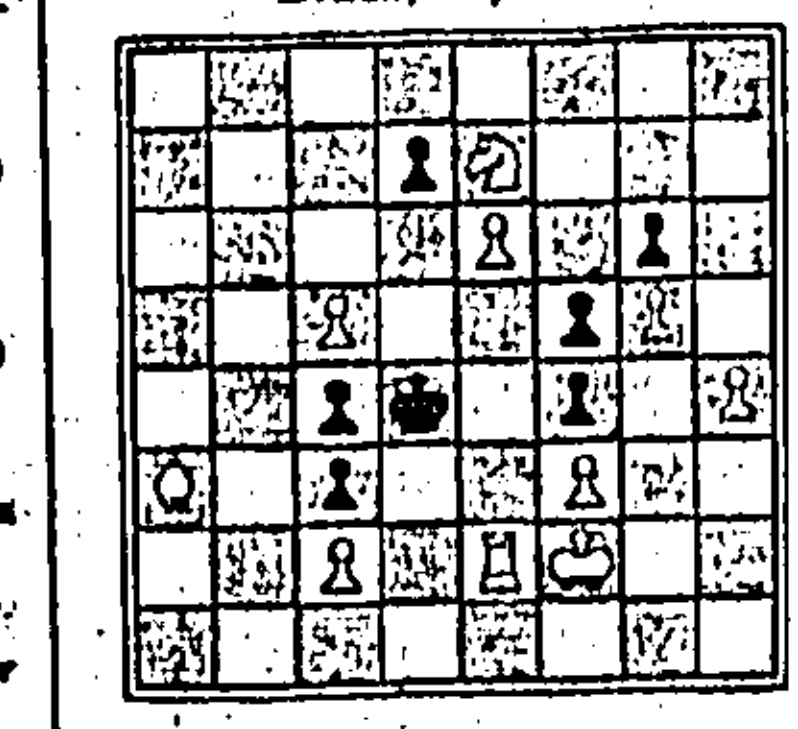
A—Bid four clubs. This jump past the level of three no-trump indicates that you have ten cards in the two suits that you have bid. If North has the right cards, he may be able to bid a slam; otherwise, he can bid game in clubs or diamonds.

TODAY'S QUESTION

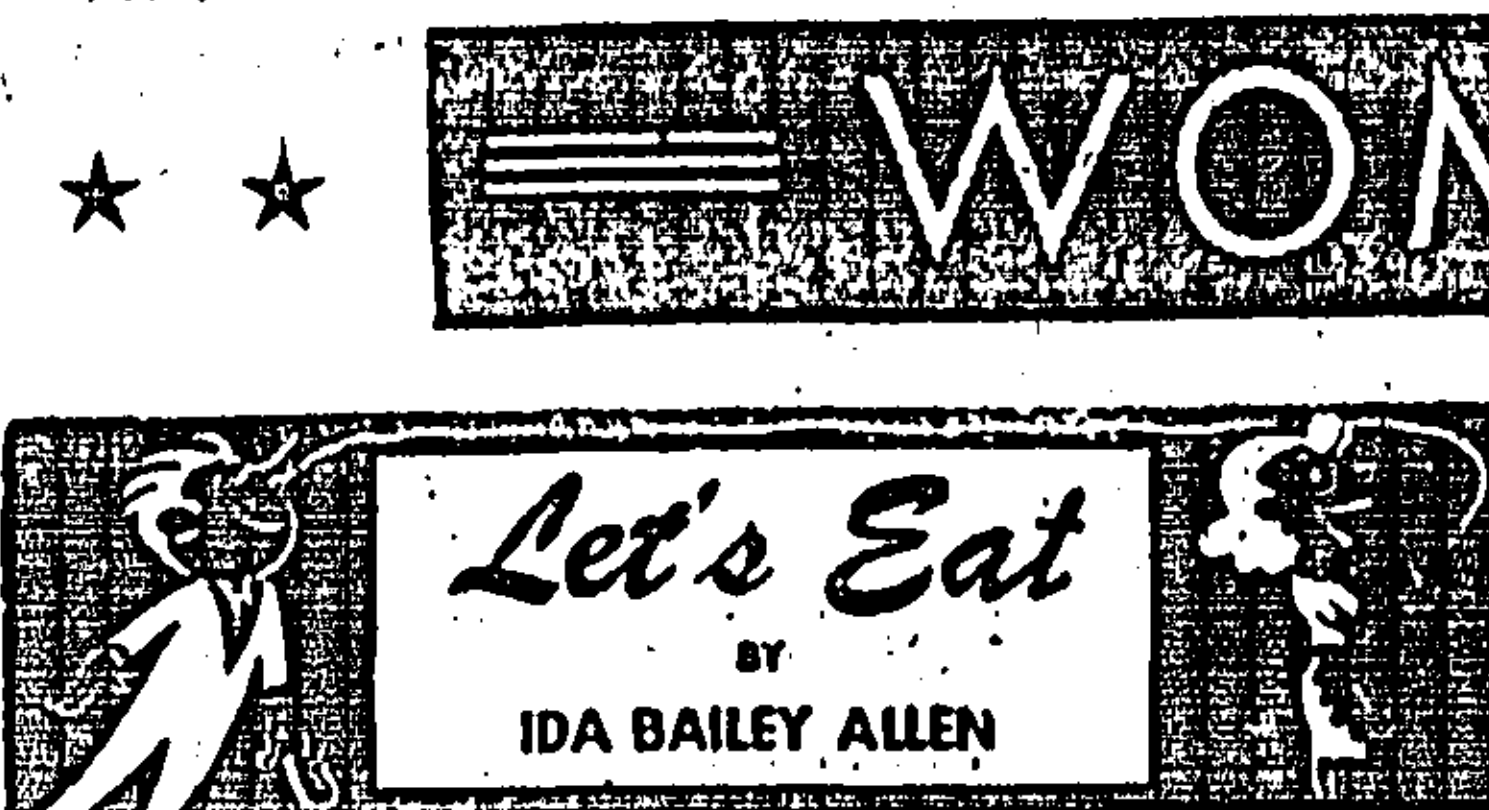
The bidding is the same as in the question just answered. You, South, hold: Spades 3-2, Hearts 3, Diamonds K-Q-J-10-7-3-2, Clubs 7-6-3. What do you do?

CHESS PROBLEM

By E. VISSERMAN
(BCF Tourney 68)
Black, 7 pieces



White, 10 pieces.
White to play: mate in three.
Solution to Saturday's problem:
1. Q-B4, any; 2. Q, Kt, or P (d4 ch) mate.



Broiling A Cooking Short Cut

"A CHEF would be lost if he did not make good use of the broiler, Madame," observed the Chef. "It makes possible restaurant short-order cooking."

"Sometimes in the early part of the day, when he has leisure time, the chef half-bakes meat or poultry in advance. The oven must be very hot, and plenty of butter or margarine used. The meat can then be finished quickly on the broiler, so the patron will not be kept waiting long for the food. This is often done with thick steaks, 'giant' hamburgers, thick lamb or pork chops and broiled chicken. The same method can be used by homemakers to produce sizzling hot hurry-up meals."

"That's a good tip, Chef," especially for career home-makers, with perhaps only 30 minutes to get a meal on the table. The preliminary meat cooking could be done in the morning, or even the evening before, when the dinner dishes are being dispatched.

"However, it's a sad commentary on modern kitchen planning that broiler cooking has been made difficult for many and women because of the low broilers installed in many ranges. Nobody wants to sit on the floor to use a broiler, and many women can't."

"In some cases the purchase of a separate electric broiler is justified. And when a new range is to be purchased, the new unit type should be in-

Trend In Luxury Furnishings Is Toward The 19th Century

By ELEANOR ROSS

CONTEMPORARY and modern settings are most in demand by people shopping for furniture, but lately we've been noting the beginning of a trend to 19th century styles, such as Biedermeier, Regency and Empire.

So we weren't very surprised when we sped across town to view a model room set up in a new and luxurious apartment house. The handsome four-room layout is a perfect setting for an interior that epitomizes luxurious elegance.

Smart Use of Colour

Colour has been smartly used, and we liked the idea of foyer and living room walls all in dark brown with wall-to-wall carpeting in the same colour. The dark brown is nicely set off by floor-length, tailored window curtains of white nylon.

The sofa is done in dark brown and the two Biedermeier side chairs are covered in handsome orange linen. Antique Empire bronze table lamps are set on the Biedermeier end tables that flank the sofa, while in front of it is a long, low coffee table of black lacquer with much gold trim. Placed along one wall is a handsome group composed of two beige upholstered armchairs that flank a conversation piece coffee table—a twelve-sided affair.

In the foyer a Venetian mirror hangs above a Sheraton lamp table on which are bronze lamps, the table flanked by black and gilt Regency chairs.

The master bedroom is a real beauty, decorated in shades of rich turquoise blue, with a pale shade used for the painted walls and for the wall-to-wall carpeting. The headboard of the bed is upholstered in tufted turquoise blue satin with a matching spread and bolster and a Biedermeier lamp table beside it. A comfortable swivel chair is covered in deep blue tufted taffeta. A double chest of walnut with lacquer trim is a reproduction of a Biedermeier museum piece.

Second Bedroom

A handsome second bedroom has the unusual colour scheme of gold and brown. One wall is papered in a tiny pattern of green, brown and gold, and a studio couch and bolsters placed against the wall are covered with a fabric in the same design.

The curtains in this extra bedroom, which doubles as a sitting room, are floor length in antique satin. A small oblong table, a pretty desk and two

WOMANSENSE

Now even the Duchess dresses off the peg

by VIVIEN BATCHELOR

MORE and more names from Debrett are being added to the account customers of the stores. People who until recently would not have dreamed of buying anything ready made, now cheerfully select their wardrobes off the peg—very often in the lower priced departments.

One store now numbers a princess, two duchesses, a countess and four baronesses among its new customers.

"The millinery buyer of one store said: 'When people find, for instance, that they can buy an exact copy of a French hat for a third the price, they come in and buy—however aristocratic the head on which the hat is to be worn.'"

A COMPETITION IN CORSETS

NEXT week is national corset week, and most stores will be out to make us foundation conscious.

It coincides with the first all-nylon broderie anglaise I have seen used for brassieres and suspender belts. English hose use it in a new type of brassiere which has a camisole top threaded with nylon ribbon, either white or mauve.

These brassieres will be useful under filmy summer blouses. They can be bought with a plunging neckline.

Most London stores will give you entry forms for a corset selection competition which has a television set as first prize.

IT'S A BIRTHDAY EVENT

ONE London shop will celebrate their 44th Birthday Week with a special purchase of gloves.

They are made of soft cape leather, perforated, with a gathered wrist in all colours.

EXPERT ADVISES

ABBOTS shoe shop at 324, Oxford Street, have a special fitting week. When Mr G. Law, a fitting expert, will advise you about shoes—especially how to choose styles most flattering to your feet.

LONGER FURS

New designs in furs are worthy of setting. Full-length coats are noticeably longer. Highlight of the collection is a



FOR COCKTAILS

A NEW style of ottoman silk cocktail or afternoon suit in two tones is on sale. The jacket is lined and the straight skirt has a deep fold at the back. They have it in gold, ruby, sherry, royal and silver with black, or in plain black.

STRIPED SKIRTS

C AND A MODES have a special bargain. It is a striped rayon jersey two piece with a dolman sleeve jumper, and a straight hanging skirt gathered to a waistband and trimmed with buttons. Stripes are blue and white and grey, two greys, yellow and black and yellow and grey.

FASHION PARADE

One House, are putting on a special show for the home dressmaker featuring Celanese materials. They are holding fashion parades of clothes made from patterns on sale in the

Household Hint

Don't sprinkle corduroy, seersucker, chenille or knit lingerie for ironing. Dry pressing is not recommended for these fabrics, but a steam iron will do a professional job.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

A GREAT deal of hard thinking by experts must have preceded the ruling that a Coronation medal for a child is free of purchase tax, provided that there is no safety-pin attached to it.

The moment it becomes possible to attach the medal to the lapel (a contingency that had not been reckoned with) purchase tax must be paid. An ordinary pin, unattached to the medal and measuring not more than 1-1/2 inch in length is not counted as a safety-pin, but a longer pin is classified as a non-pin, but not a medal glued to the lapel, or fastened with sticky-paper. A medal clasped to the lapel with paper-clips must pay purchase tax if the paper-clips are above the standard size. And/or.

The Shakespeares of Ballyhaunis

AN American professor has established the fact that Liam Shakespeares, like Sean Milton, was an Irishman. The Shakespeares came, if this professor really wants to know, from Ballyhaunis, in County Mayo, and Liam, who lived in Tipperary, was a descendant of the Shakespeares of Ballyhaunis. Sean O'Malley dropped

YOUR BIRTHDAY By STELLA

MONDAY, MARCH 30

BORN today, your ability to follow through on an original and individual idea gives all away to your initiative and natural genius should be the basis for real success. Since you have a keen eye for operational detail, anything which you undertake on your own account and merely try to follow others, you will sink into mediocrity and, perhaps, failure. Live up to the best that is in you and a brilliant future is assured.

Often you are determined and set in your ways, yet, if you do stick to your guns, you will eventually be proved right. Don't let outsiders persuade you to change your mind at critical moments. Let your birthdate even in the face of opposition, for anyone with such

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—A fine day to start that savings account if you don't already have one, to which you can add!

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—Don't make a hasty selection of what you are making an expensive purchase. Do plenty of shopping around.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—If offered a new opportunity for advancement, take it. Make up your mind quickly regarding the new duties involved.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)—Seek out a relaxing activity for this evening. You will want to expend too much energy on recreation.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—See that articles you value, for either their sentimental or intrinsic value, are put in a safe place today.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Be conservative in a business venture. Being overly ambitious can, at this time, do more harm than good.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—Efficient concentration on the job or home can bring an increase in profitable productivity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 23)—Don't permit extra-curricular events to intrude upon the work conduct of your regular routine.

WHAT'S HER LINE?

ROSE BUTTE
Re-arrange the letters to spell her occupation.
(Solution on Page 10)

DUMB-BELLS

AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE INTERIM I REMAINED OUTSIDE?



BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Where Do Notes of Music Go?

—Mrs. Cuckoo Says Her Wise Cousin Owl Knows—

By MAX TRELL

"So you'd like to know what happens to all the notes of music that come out of all the musical instruments?" Mrs. Cuckoo asked, smiling at Knarf and Hand, the shadow-children with the turned-about names. They were sitting in her very pleasant parlour inside the Cuckoo Clock.

"Yes, we'd like very much to know," Hand said.

"You see, Mrs. Cuckoo," Knarf put in, "when they come out of all the pianos and violins and bugles they go somewhere, don't they?"

Mrs. Cuckoo nodded. "Well, where do they go?"

May Not Be True

Mrs. Cuckoo pushed her spectacles back over her forehead and let her knitting rest in her

"He saw notes of music, that's what he saw! They looked like bees. As they flew into the hollow tree they made a sound like whichever note they were. And all of them together sounded like snatches of music."

"And what happened to them after they flew into the hollow tree, Mrs. Cuckoo?" Knarf wanted to know.

"Now that's the strangest part of Cousin Owl's story. He says they all stayed there for quite a while until more and more of them came. Finally, just as he was about to go to bed, he heard queer little sounds, coming right into the hollow tree. He looked very sharp. When Cousin Owl looks sharp, Mrs. Cuckoo said, smiling again.

"What did Cousin Owl see?" Hand asked.

"And then, what?"

"Then Cousin Owl, who was mighty curious to know what was going to happen to them,

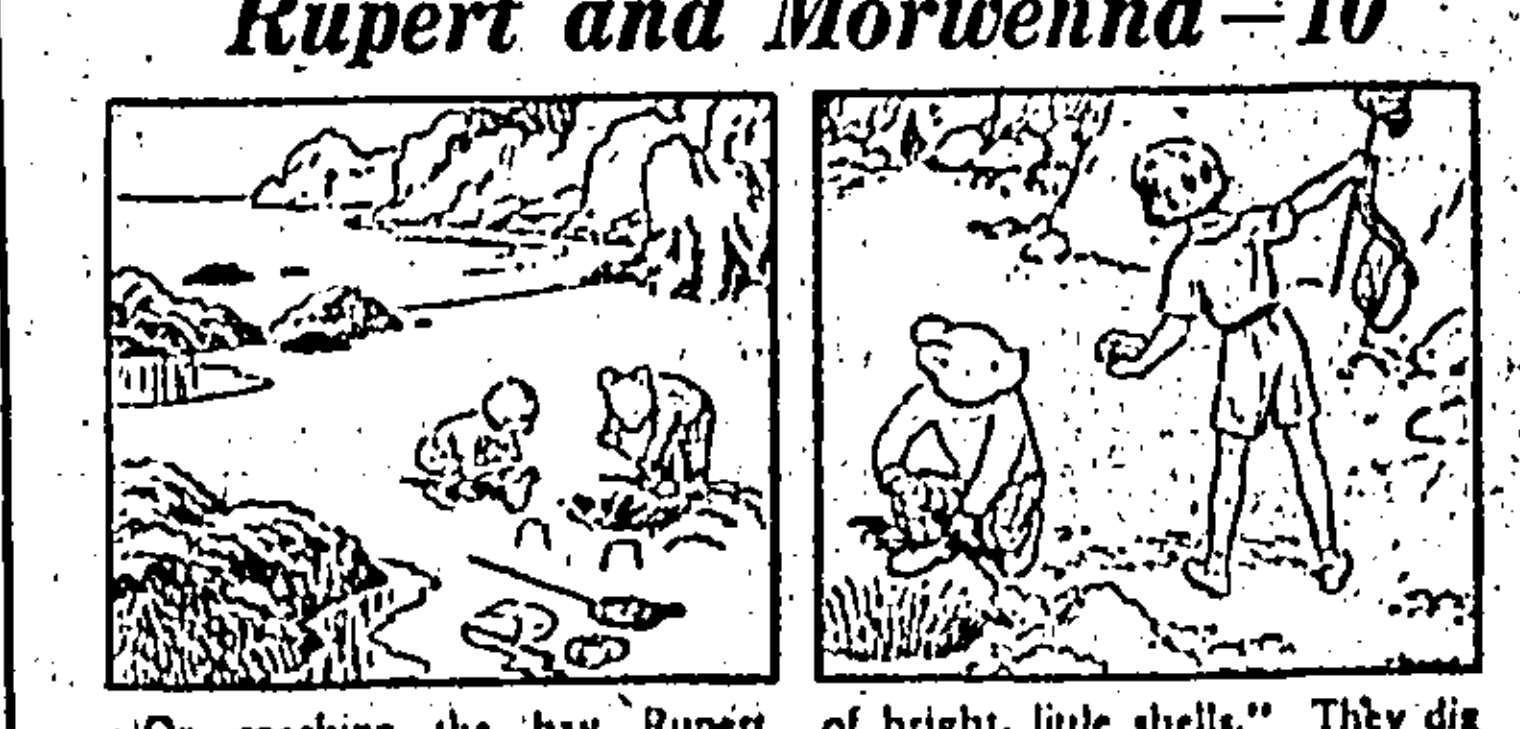
"As they were crossing the brook, some of them fell in and the brook began to babble and gurgle in the most musical way. And then a great batch of them fell in among the leaves of the tree on the other side of the brook, and the leaves all started to flutter and flutter, as though they were singing in a whisper. And another batch fell into the lake behind the house, and the tadpoles and the crickets swallowed them at once, and they began singing. And finally there were only a few big, strong notes left. The notes which came from the drum—the boom, boom, boom."

"And what happened to them, please?" the two shadow-children asked eagerly.

"Why they—oh, they fell in the pond and the frogs got them."

"But mind you," she said, putting her spectacles back and taking up her knitting again, "this is only what Cousin Owl told me he saw, and I don't say that it's true."

Rupert and Morwenna—10



On reaching the bay Rupert saw that Morwenna had already been there, for her shrimping net and a haversack are lying near a rock. "I say, what's topping and!" exclaims Rupert, quickly setting to work with his spade. "It's firm and soft, and with lots of bright, little shells." They dig and make sand castles, and then Morwenna picks up the haversack and sandwiches. "We have plenty to eat," she says. "I brought enough for us both, too. I'll go and put it safely on a high shelf up the cliff there."

A new "Adventure" RUPERT and the ROCKING HORSE \$1.

ENGLAND WINS CROSS COUNTRY



Competitors in the International Cross Country Race at Vincennes Race Course, Paris, on March 21 taking one of the obstacles. They are Franjo Mihalic (Yugoslavia, No. 135), the winner, Lucien Theys (Belgium, No. 15), Abdullah, France, No. 60), Bannon (No. 30) and England's Gordon Pirie (No. 1). England won the event with 64 points to France's 84. — Central Press Photo.

Britain's Jockey Club Is 200 Years Old

Two hundred years ago a group of noblemen, led by the Royal Duke of Cumberland, the "butcher" of Culloden and breeder of the great Eclipse, acquired some land in High Street, Newmarket, and ever since the Jockey Club, as it called itself, has governed horse-racing—first at Newmarket, and then all over Britain.

The club was formed primarily to enable members to arrange matches between their own horses and to bet among themselves. Its name, it is explained by the fact that many of these owners rode their own horses, and there was an early rule that "none but members with boots and spurs be admitted" to the rooms.

But today, although it has no Royal Charter, the Jockey Club holds absolute power. It can impose fines up to £100 for offences against its rules. No official trainer, jockey or race-horse can function without its consent, and it can withdraw their licences without assigning a reason.

Being "warned off Newmarket Heath" means banishment from all race courses and training grounds in Britain. And by a reciprocal arrangement with other turf authorities for the mutual enforcement of sentences passed on offenders, warns them

"off" nearly every recognised race-course in the world.

First secretary of the Club was a "foul" solicitor, Mr. Weatherby, and Mr. E. W. Weatherby, a direct descendant of that solicitor, is the present Secretary. Members initially met in the coffee room of the Red Lion Inn, and nowadays their meetings are still held in a coffee room which is part of the Club's magnificent subscription rooms at Newmarket.

First record of the Jockey Club's legislation is that of the passing of a resolution, in 1758,

dealing with the weighing-in of jockeys. Gradually its authority began to be recognised outside Newmarket, and other race meetings asked for rulings on disputes.

So in 1832 they pointed out that they were willing to give their decision on racing matters only in the case of meetings where Newmarket rules were in force. And in 1870 they made the distinction between "recognised" and "unrecognised" meetings.

They added to their powers by issuing licences for jockeys, trainers and all racing officials, licences that could be withdrawn for misbehaviour or for taking part in racing at unrecognised meetings.

The Club expanded financially by gradually buying up all training grounds at Newmarket, and today owns some 3,000 acres, while for every horse trained at Newmarket a Heath tax has to be paid to the Club.

The Jockey Club consists of about 50 members with the addition of honorary members who cannot vote. Election is by ballot and the subscription is £10 yearly. Membership of the Jockey Club rooms is limited to 300. The heads of the club are three stewards. The senior of these retires annually, and nominates another member to become steward for three years.

FASTEST EVER

Oyakawa set the fans roaring by his first time out in going 200 yards in 2:05.1, which was the fastest time ever recorded. There is no recognised world record in this event, but it was 2.2 seconds faster than the existing American record.

Only Oyakawa and Burwell Jones of Michigan, both members of last year's Olympic team, retained their titles in this 13-event three-day carnival.

Oyakawa retained his 200-Yard Backstroke title and won the 100-Yard Backstroke. Jones retained his 150-Yard Individual Medley title, winning in 1:30 compared with his 1:20.9 last year.

Michigan held on to its 400-Yard Free-Style Relay title, posting 3:24 to beat Yale last night, but the other champions were new.—United Press.

WEEK-END SOFTBALL

Softball fans, marching out to the park yesterday were greatly disappointed, as bad weather limited the programme to only one game. In this tussle, the Braves, this year's Senior "A" Champions, bettered the lowly Madcaps 13-9 with a camp team behind the six-hit hurling of outfielder Bui Diaber.

Red Perola's Jaguars failed to show up against the Pandas, giving a walk-over and putting themselves in the cellar-spot this year.

Of the minor loop Knock-out Series slated for Saturday, the only game played saw Chinese Athletics plover W. K. Wong turning in a brilliant mound job, claiming seven strike-out victims in his two-hit shut-out over the veteran Griffins.

Batting honours went to Omba, of the Braves with a 3-6 try, while the Ves brothers of the Madcaps, Olls and Shankie, achieved 2-4 and 3-8 respectively.

BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP

COLONY SENIOR SINGLES FINALS AT CRAIGENGOWER THIS EVENING

By "ARGONAUT"

The finals of the Colony Open Badminton Championships begin this evening at Craigengower Cricket Club with a programme of five matches.

Heading them will be the finals of the two major events—the Senior Ladies' Singles and the Men's Senior Singles, in which defending title-holders Ullan Khoo and Ramon Young are expected to face strong opposition in Helen Kwong and Bill Funk.

Helen Kwong reached the final of the Senior Ladies' event last year but bowed out to Ullan Khoo in two sets. Since then, however, she has shown remarkable improvement and among her notable achievements during the past year was her reaching the final of the Ladies' Doubles event in the unofficial World Championships at Kuala Lumpur last June.

Ullan Khoo was also one of the Hongkong lady players who took part in the Kuala Lumpur Championships and in partnership with Mrs. Ivy Fong did well before being defeated by the ultimate Champions, Mrs. Cecilia Samuel and Miss Queenie Cheah.

Although she has not been in serious practice since her return, she confounded critics by producing her best form in years during her matches in this year's Championships.

The final this afternoon between Ullan Khoo and Helen Kwong will in all likelihood be the most closely fought one in years, with the odds in favour of the defending titlist in view of her greater staying power, harder-hitting and the improvement she has shown in the accuracy of her strokes.

Helen Kwong will have first to contend with the complexity of having been previously beaten by her opponent, but stands a good outside chance of upsetting the Champion if she takes the initiative in going for the point-winning shots without too much delay and cutting down the rallies "as much as possible."

EVEN BATTLE

In view of the brilliant form displayed by contender Bill Funk in his semi-final round when he decisively accounted for Robert Tay and the very close shave encountered by title-holder Ramon Young in his semi-final match against University's H. T. Heah, the odds are almost even for the two finalists this evening.

It will be a grand battle of contrasting tactics and strokes. Of the two, Funk enjoys a slight advantage in court craft, and a decisive one in the accuracy of his strokes, though these are limited in variety.

Young has a greater number of point-scoring strokes at his disposal, including the newly-acquired half-court cross smash, but has not as yet developed that margin of accuracy in these strokes to give him a decisive advantage.

Depending on his speed and the effectiveness of his strokes rather than on a controlling game, Young will stake all on his accuracy and his ability to keep down his errors in tonight's match.

It is very likely that the match will turn out to be a battle of stamina, with Funk trying to capitalise on his opponent's errors and Young trying to cut down his errors with safety play from the back court and paying less attention to the forecourt, which his opponent is least likely to concentrate on in view of his rather slow-dropping one-sided drop shots.

Unless his stamina gives out, Funk will have a slight advantage on the whole over his opponent.

The finals continue tomorrow at the Chinese YMCA, where the two Schoolboys' events, the Junior and Senior Doubles finals will also be played off.

The remaining finals of the Championships will be decided on Thursday at Craigengower Cricket Club, and the whole net proceeds of the night will be donated to the British Flood Disaster Fund.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, and Lady Grantham have kindly con-

sented to attend the last match of the evening after which Lady Grantham has kindly consented to present all the trophies won during the current season. All finalists will be introduced to His Excellency the Governor on his arrival after a minute's silence has been observed in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Mary.

TONIGHT'S FINALS

At Craigengower
7.30 p.m.—Schoolboys' Junior Singles—Loh Chung-hon (St. Stephen's) v. Chau San-Lam (Clement).

8.00 p.m.—Ladies' Junior Singles—Miss Stella Correa v. Mrs. E. Tsok.

8.30 p.m.—Junior Mixed Doubles—F. M. Rozario and Miss B. Baptista v. J. A. Soares and Miss B. Remedios.

9.00 p.m.—Senior Ladies' Singles—Miss Ullan Khoo v. Miss Helen Kwong.

9.30 p.m.—Men's Senior Singles—Ramon Young v. Bill Funk.

TOMORROW

(At Chinese YMCA)
7.30 p.m.—Schoolboys' Junior Doubles final.

8.00 p.m.—Schoolboys' Senior Doubles—Ko Wai-bong (Wah Yan) and C. K. Wong (New

Method) v. Wai Tsang-wing and Long Hin-jok (DBS).
8.30 p.m.—Ladies' Junior Doubles—Miss S. Correa and Mrs. M. Rozario v. Miss B. Remedios and Miss Rita Marques.

9.00 p.m.—Junior Men's Doubles—M. T. Lam and K. C. Wong v. J. A. Motta and J. C. Koh.

9.30 p.m.—Senior Mixed Doubles—R. Young and Miss Winnie Cheung v. P. H. Wong and Miss Ullan Khoo.

THURSDAY

(At Craigengower)

(In Aid of British Flood Disaster Fund)

7.30 p.m.—Schoolboys' Senior Singles—Ko Wai-bong (Wah Yan) v. Shu Chuen (Queen's College).

8.00 p.m.—Ladies' Senior Doubles—Miss Helen Kwong and Mrs. E. Tsok v. Miss Winnie Cheung and Miss Ullan Khoo.

8.30 p.m.—Men's Junior Singles—F. M. Rozario v. Jimmy Khoo.

9.05 p.m.—Senior Men's Doubles—W. F. Foo and R. Young v. P. H. Wong and R. Tay.

10. p.m.—Distribution of Prizes by Lady Grantham.

Tommy Farr Likely To Fight Ken Shaw At Dundee This Summer

By MALCOLM TURNER

Tommy Farr, who celebrated his 39th birthday recently, is likely to fight in Scotland within the next two months—possibly against Ken Shaw (Dundee), who was Scottish Heavyweight Champion when he went to New Zealand three years ago.

Promoter George Grant tells me he is planning a big open-air show at a Dundee football field in the early summer, and his idea is to have Farr in the chief contest if a suitable Scottish opponent can be found.

Although the veteran Welshman's defeat by Don Cockrell has put him out of the running for another crack at the British heavy-title which he formerly held, it is a question whether we have anyone in Scotland good enough to put against him.

Shaw, however, is expected home from New Zealand this month—whether on a holiday or to live here is not yet known. Shaw's fighting weight was around 15st. and he is about ten years younger than Farr.

Falling Ken, George Stern (Glasgow), present Scottish Heavyweight Champion, should be given the chance. George is "fed up" at the lack of engagements and would welcome a bout with the former British title-holder.

NEVER IN SCOTLAND

In his 20 years in the ring Farr has never fought in Scotland, but he beat several prominent Scots.

He stopped Steve McCall (Aberdeen) in the 12th round at Moray in 1933, gained a disputed points verdict over him at Winters (Uddingston) in a 15-round eliminator for the British cruiserweight (12st. 7lb.) championship at Cardiff in 1934, and stopped Manuel Abrew (Edinburgh) in the sixth round at the White City, London, in 1935.

Farr's decision to carry on with his boxing career at the age of 39 recalls the cases of other famous fighters who were boxing in Championship class at his age.

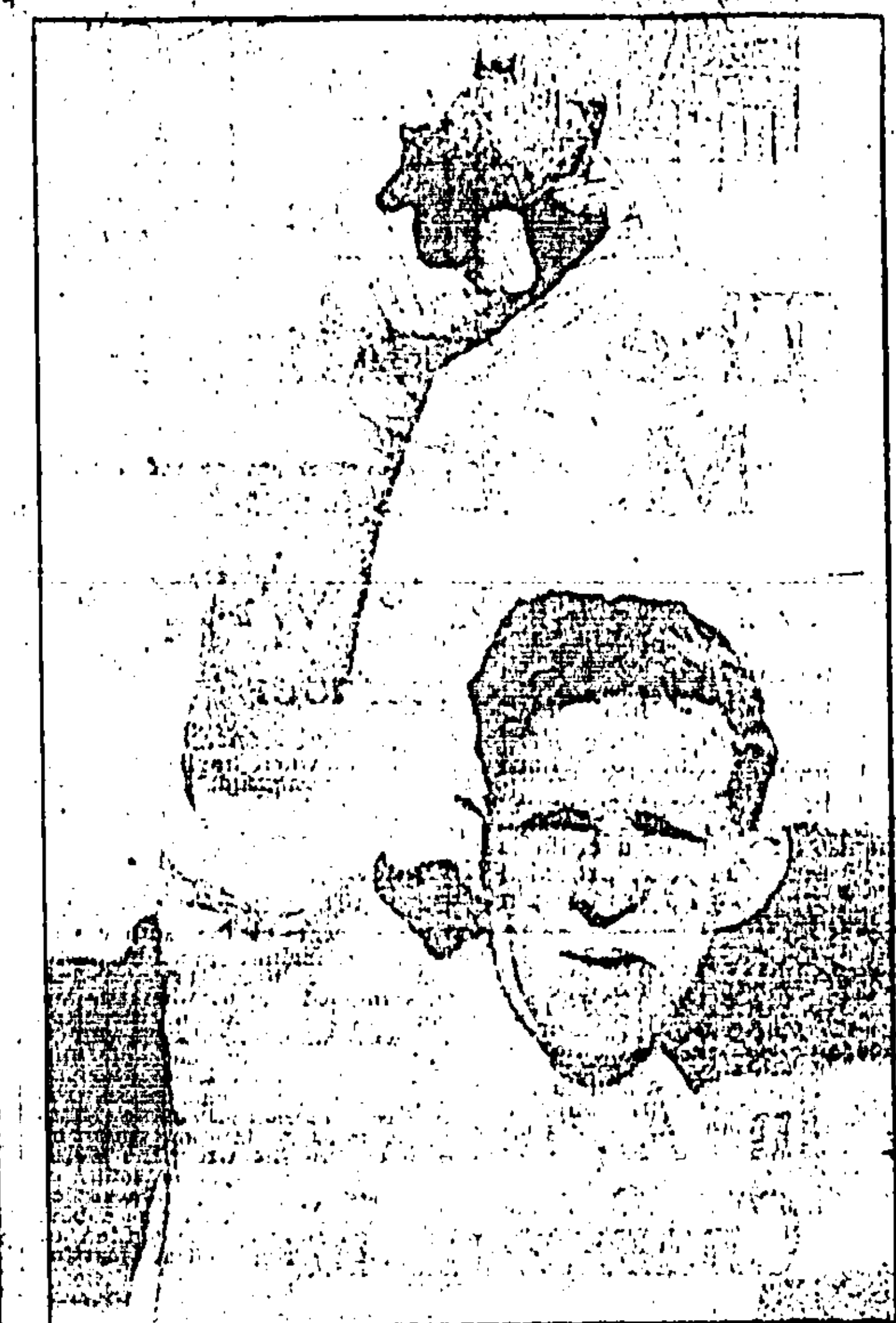
World Indoor Record Set In High Jump

Chicago, Mar. 29. Ken Wiesner of the Navy set a new world indoor High Jump record of six feet 10 1/4 inches on Saturday night to dominate the 17th Annual Chicago Daily News Relays before 16,762 fans.

Wiesner's leaping highlighted the 19-event programme, which included eight events for individuals.

Harrison Dillard, Olympic 100 Metres Champion in 1948 and 110 Metres High Hurdles Champion in 1952, posted a double win, gaining the 60-Yard High Hurdles Championship for the seventh straight year with a time of 7.3 seconds and capturing the 50-Yard Dash in 5.4 seconds.—United Press.

AUSTRALIANS FOR THE TEST SERIES



A new picture of Jack Hill, the spin-bowler, a member of the Australian team to tour England this summer.



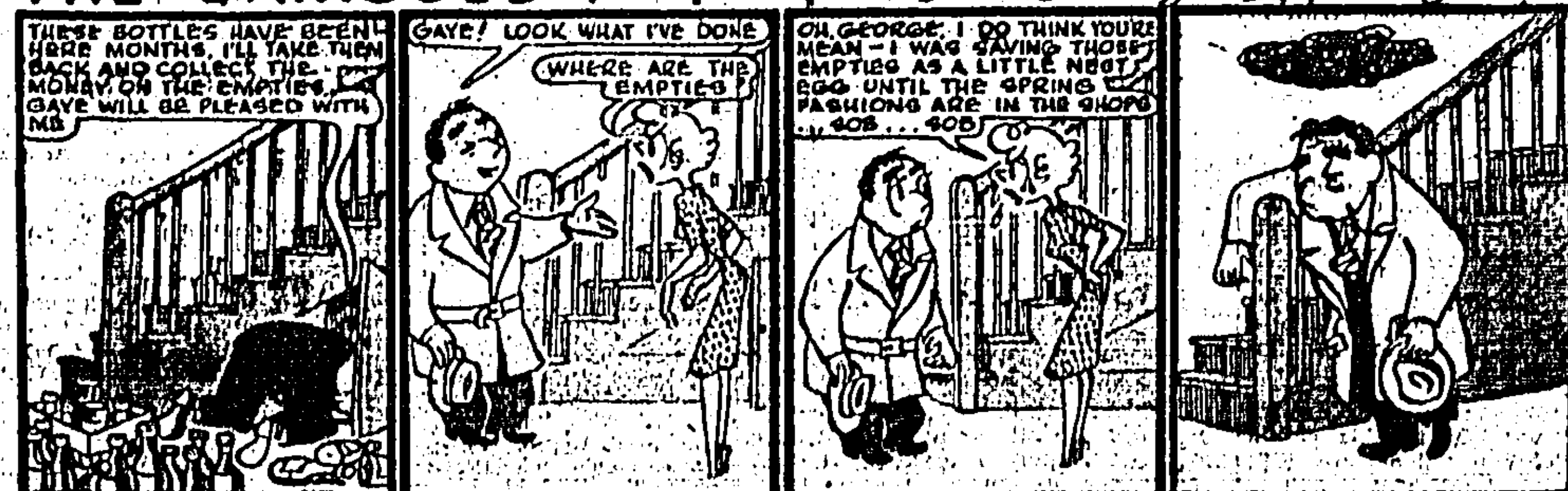
R. Archer, the Queensland all-rounder.



R. Benson, the all-rounder.—Central Press Photos.

THE GAMBOLS

by Barry Appley



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"HANYANG"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	3 p.m. 31st Mar.
"FENGNING"	Kobe, Osaka, Nagoya & Yokohama	8 a.m. 1st Apr.
"SHENKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 1st Apr.
"SOOCHOW"	Singapore, Penang & Belawan	10 a.m. 6th Apr.
"YUOCHOW"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	10 a.m. 8th Apr.
"SHENKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 8th Apr.
"FENGTING"	Bangkok	8 a.m. 9th Apr.
"HUPEH"	Tientsin	10 a.m. 9th Apr.
"FOOCHOW"	Djakarta, Semarang, Sourabaya & Macassar	8 a.m. 10th Apr.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"YUOCHOW"	Yokohama & Belawan	4th Apr.
"HUPEH"	Tientsin	4th Apr.
"SOOCHOW"	Kobe	4th Apr.
"FENGTING"	Kobe	6th Apr.
"FOOCHOW"	Kobe	8th Apr.

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"CHANGTIA"	Singapore & Melbourne	10th Apr.
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"TAIYUAN"	Yokohama & Japan	1st Apr.
"CHANGTIA"	Kobe	8th Apr.
"CHANGTIA"	Australia & Manila	15th Apr.

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"LAOMEDON"	Liverpool & Dublin	21st Apr.
"ANCHISES"	Glasgow, London, Rotterdam & Hamburg	25th Apr.
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	6th May
"ASTYANAX"	Liverpool & Glasgow	14th May

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails		
G. "LAOMEDON"	Liverpool	31st Mar.
S. "ANCHISES"	do	9th Apr.
G. "PERSEUS"	do	14th Apr.
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	23rd Apr.
G. "AENEAS"	do	29th Apr.
S. "ANCANTUS"	3rd Apr.	8th May
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H.K. Manila/Haliphong (DC-4)	10:00 a.m. Tues.	2:45 p.m. Wed.
H.K. Canton/Singapore (DC-4)	11:00 a.m. Tues.	5:00 p.m. Wed.
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SECOND THOUGHTS

On Anglo-American Financial Talks

Britain Retraces Some Of Steps Taken In 1951

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Mar. 29. The conciliatory attitude adopted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler, at the Council of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation meeting in Paris last week has given rise to second thoughts regarding the outcome of the earlier Anglo-American economic talks in Washington.

It now appears that while giving its official blessing to the idea of an eventual advance towards convertibility for Sterling the American Government asked Mr. Butler to delay his plans until the other Western European countries were ready to join in a general assault on the currency restrictions.

Indeed, this would be a logical compromise for the United States has given almost equal importance to plans for closer European economic co-operation as it has to its advocacy of greater freedom for currency and trade.

In any event Britain has now retraced some of the steps she took in November 1951 and again in March of last year when imports were slashed to arrest the loss of gold to Western Europe.

The decision to raise the quota of certain imports and to free others from all restriction will enable Western Europe to earn a further £32 million of Sterling in the second half of this year.

These earnings should be raised by another £8 million as a result of the higher currency allowance Britain may now claim when the travel abroad.

These concessions were perhaps inevitable. France and Italy, who have both been badly hit by the British import restrictions, were threatening to retaliate by cutting their own imports from this country.

Nevertheless Britain's decision to "liberalise" part of its trade with O.E.C. countries is not without significance.

Until quite recently British officials were still insisting that the time had not yet come to lift the import restrictions. The question is what caused them to change their mind?

PAYMENTS UNION
Even more significant is the fact that British officials have also modified their ideas concerning a renewal of the European Payments Union agreement.

A short time ago Britain was insisting on the inclusion of an "escape clause" in the agreement, giving her the right to withdraw from the Union on three months' notice.

This has now been changed to a request—granted by the other members of the Union—for a formula to be written into the agreement by which a member may withdraw from the Union only after ample notice has been given and the other members have had the opportunity of discussing it.

The fact that Britain has agreed to an extension of the European Payments Union system for a further 12 months from June 30 next is regarded as a clear indication that the Commonwealth plan received a severe setback in Washington.

European fears that convertible Sterling would wreck the original plan, which carried more weight in the United States than the lofty aspirations of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

RECESSION FEARS
There may, however, be another reason why the original Commonwealth plan, which almost certainly envisaged an early advance towards convertibility, has now been modified into a vague hope of giving freedom to the Pound at some indefinite future date.

One of the conditions on which the continuation of the present high level of industrial activity—and therefore in the demand for Sterling imports—in America, there can be no assurance, however, that this condition will be fulfilled, the possibility of a "pause" in the American economic growth some time in 1954 or 1955 is now being widely discussed.

Present fears that next year or the year after might see a recession—slight or otherwise—in America are based on known facts about the United States defence programme.

According to "The Economist," which this week devotes a special survey to the subject of American defence, expenditures are due to rise to a peak in the last quarter of the present year, then level off for several quarters and start falling gradually in late 1954.

1949 PRECEDENT
Unless other forms of spending rise to take its place this decline in American defence expenditure might be sufficient to cause a situation similar to that which occurred in 1949.

Then, it will be remembered, the mere fact that America's gross national product stopped rising was enough to cause a crisis in the Sterling Area, culminating in the devaluation of the Pound.

Fears that something of this sort might happen again, when the American defence programme begins to fall off, are only partly

offset by hopes that the "slack" in the American economy will be taken up by other forms of expenditure.

While American spending by businesses and private individuals as well as by Government is not expected to fall this year—and should in fact go on rising—"The Economist" survey suggests that the rate of such spending may begin to decline some time in 1954.

Even then a "pause" or recession may be avoided by prompt American Government action.

THE QUESTION

The important question, however, is what sort of action would be required by Britain and other Sterling Area countries if the events of 1949 were repeated in 1954 or 1955.

Significantly, "The Economist" deals with this question as though the present plan for Sterling did not exist. It points out that British policy should, in the event of even a slight American recession, do everything in its power to maintain its dollar earning power.

This would have to be done even at the expense of some unemployment in industry producing consumer goods and at the risk of embittering relations with certain Commonwealth countries.

For Britain would have to resist their demand for British capital equipment and other potential dollar-earning goods.

Other moves suggested by "The Economist" to counteract the effects of an American recession—"in order of priority and desirability"—are tighter import restrictions but against dollar imports only; price stabilisation and stockpiling schemes for the Sterling Area raw materials; and depreciation of Sterling.

RISKS CLEAR

It is clear, then, that the effects of an American recession on the Sterling Area's economy would in any case be extremely grave. But the danger would be greater still if Sterling was convertible into dollars when the crisis struck.

The likelihood is that if a recession came towards the end of 1954 or some time in 1955 Sterling would in fact be convertible, for though the Commonwealth plan may proceed at a more leisurely pace than was at first intended, there is nothing to suggest it will be abandoned altogether.

In that event the drain on the Sterling Area's gold and dollar reserves would be all the greater and might even lead to a second—and more permanent—retreat into currency restriction.

Though this does not necessarily mean that Sterling should remain forever inconvertible it does underline the risks of attempting an experiment of this nature until much adequate reserves are at the Sterling Area's disposal.

It may explain, too, why official enthusiasm for the Commonwealth plan shows definite signs of waning.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

Pre-Budget doubts contributed to the marked slackening of activity in the Stock Exchange last week.

Wednesday's revenue return—the one before the last of the present financial year—showed that the ultimate Budget deficit is likely to be larger than was feared.

The market had already known definite signs of a pause, however, before the revenue figures were published. After Monday's bright start, when 3½ per cent War Loan touched 90 for the first time for over a year and the "Financial Times" index of share prices jumped to 125 to equal this year's "high," the markets began a slight but steady decline.

At mid-week Queen Mary's death was a further restraining influence.

An earlier factor in the pause was the announcement on Monday of a £20 million issue of North of Scotland hydro-electric loan stock.

The authorities were, apparently encouraged by the outstanding success of last week's

Northern Ireland electricity issue to lighten the terms of this loan.

At a four per cent "coupon" rate with a life (to 1973-74) five to seven years longer, and priced at 96, the Scottish loan was less attractive to investors than the Northern Ireland issue of £2 million of 4½ per cent loan stock at 99.

Subscription lists for the North of Scotland issue opened on Friday, when the delay in announcing the result added to the previous uncertainty in the gilt-edged market to produce a further slight decrease of prices earlier in the day.

But, though the announcement that applications up to £250 would be accepted in full, and larger applications scaled down to 80 per cent, did not come until the close, the funds ended the week on a firmer note.

There was also an easier trend in the industrial share market. This was partly due to the diminishing hopes of tax relief in the Budget and partly to a number of disappointing dividend announcements.

LESS SPECULATION

Prices moved irregularly but on the whole were well maintained. Between Monday and Friday the "Financial Times" index fell by only half a point.

Speculative activities were less in evidence than in recent weeks but in the brewery sector Meux's 7/6d to 34/- on rumours of a take-over bid.

This was immediately denied by the Chairman of the company but at the end of the week the shares were still 3/6d higher than on Monday.

Another feature of the market was the decline of textile shares on news that more West European textiles are to be imported into Britain. However, as textile shares had previously been a strong market, prices on the whole are higher now than a week ago.

Kaffir picked up later in the week after a dull start.

Elsewhere the markets have been generally quiet.

SLOW RETREAT

London, Mar. 29. Dollar stocks were quiet all the week with selling at a premium of only 3½ per cents over the New York prices.

British industrial stocks showed a slow retreat with Dunlop's and Unilever down 1½/-, Courtauld's and Imperial Chemicals down 10½/- and Ford Motors down 6d.

There were exceptions, notably British-American Tobacco, up 4/6d, on a dividend and bonus offer.

There was virtually no expectation that Chancellor Butler will do much about lowering taxation as an incentive to industry but the persistent feeling is that he will do something to encourage the economy.

Production has fallen definitely in January and almost certainly in February.

American buying of Royal Dutch lifted the price 10/- to £31½ and Shell moved up nearly 2/- in sympathy, but other leading oils were quiet.

Japanese bonds were weak with Tokyo Electric's assessed bonds down £5 and non-assessed down £4. Others were down £2.

German Reich loans were down £1 or so.—United Press.

Trade Drive In South America

Buenos Aires, Mar. 29. Within the next two months Buenos Aires will see examples of Japanese industry. From April 28 to May 11 there will be a display of Japanese goods ranging from diesel motors through medical instruments to Japanese arts, sponsored by the Japanese Embassy.

On May 29, the 7,500-ton Japanese ship, Myokan Maru, launched in Kobe on December 28, is expected here. It will be carrying industrial products and the public will be invited aboard to see them.—United Press.

Unfavourable Japanese Trade Balance

Tokyo, Mar. 29. Japan's international trade for the second 10-day period of March showed an unfavourable balance of over 12 billion Yen, according to the Finance Ministry.

Exports were 11,373,000,000 Yen, while imports stood at 24,039,000,000 Yen, respectively a decrease of roughly 1 billion Yen and an increase of 2 billion Yen.

The major products exported were iron and steel products (1.6 billion Yen), ships (1.9 billion Yen), cotton textiles (1.24 billion Yen). The major imports were raw cotton (nearly 4.5 billion Yen), petroleum (2.4 billion Yen), wheat, raw wool and coal.—France-Press.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$267,000. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS	1355	0	1355
HSBC	140		
INDUSTRIALS	705		
SHIPPING	140	1000	140
DOCKS, ETC.	601 1/2		
K. Wharf	1000	1000	615
K. P. Wharf	1000		
Dock	1000		
Provident	1000		
Wireless	730 1/2		
LAND, ETC.	720	1300	720
HSBC	1000		
HSBC (1)	1000		
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HSBC (3)	1000		
HSBC (4)	1000		
HSBC (5)	1000		
HSBC (6)	1000		
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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1953.

Sheaffer's™
"SNORKEL"

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Because Of A Car...

SOME steal, whose poverty makes plans for them more eloquent than any counsel could.

The mother, whose home is a single room that houses a large family, steals from a shop some trifles—not for herself, as a rule, but for her clamorous children. A man weighed down with worry and with debt, ill, penniless, as well, seeks in one mad moment of dishonesty, to solve by theft his hopeless-seeming problems. Such as these at once invoke your pity.

The case of Frank was different, and hearing his story told at the Tower Bridge court, you did not at first feel the pale young man in the dock deserved much of your sympathy. Yet when the last touches had been added to that story, pity was what you felt.

A GARAGE JOB

FRANK is 25, chubby, with thinning fair hair. His bent is for things mechanical. His career, until a few months ago, was one of steady, if unspectacular, progress.

He left school when he was 14, and went to work in a garage at a wage of £1 a week. In the years between then and now he has served two years in the Army, and worked in a number of jobs, mostly connected with mending motor-cars, each of which has brought him a modest step-up in income.

Frank also married; and he and his wife were luckier than many of their age, for they were not faced with the seemingly endless heartbreak of househunting. Frank's wife owns the eight-room suburban house where they live.

HIS WIFE'S CAR

FRANK's last change of job came three months ago, when he switched from being one of the crew of a breakdown lorry, at £3 a week, to indoor work as a despatch clerk with a car-accessory firm, that earned him 10s. more.

Although in his new job Frank no longer worked on cars, his divorce from them was quite complete. For his wife, besides owning the house, possessed a car, and in the garage of their home, there was plenty of scope for Frank's mechanical skill.

It was his wife's car that caused Frank's downfall. For it constantly wanted things doing to it—now a greasing, now some small repair—and he had the skill to attend to such matters, but he had not the tools for the job. And he worked in a place whose walls were studded with the very equipment he needed.

HIS STOLEN TOOLS

WHEN he had been with the firm for three weeks, Frank stole a tin of grease and a spanner.

When the theft was not at once discovered, Frank stole again. For nearly three months, he was later to say, he stole some tool or gadget on almost every working day, until his garage must have been the best-equipped of its kind in London, and there cannot have been much room left in it for the car.

He was caught at last, and when he was arrested, he said: "I took the things to work on the wife's car, you see. I couldn't afford to buy them."

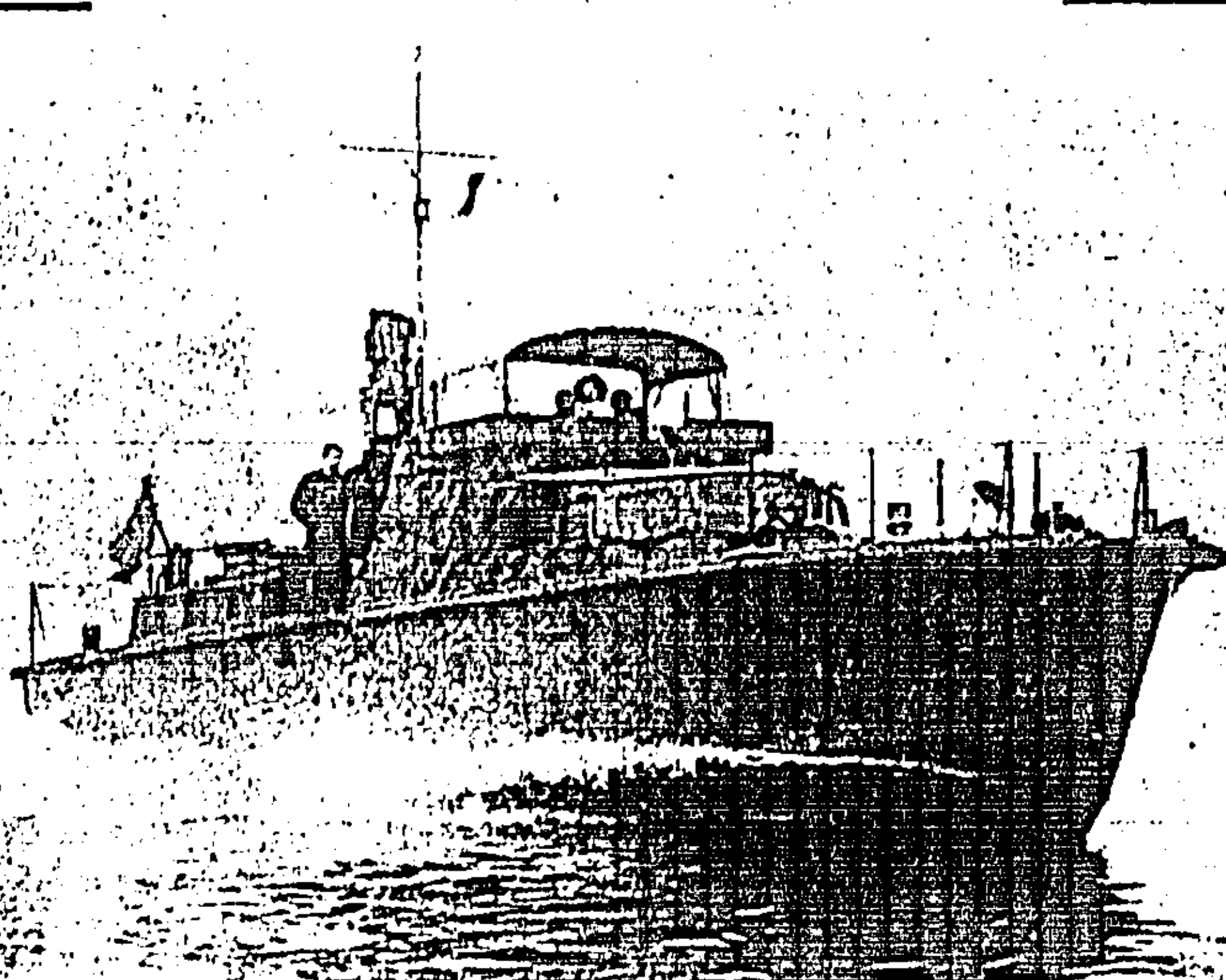
A YEAR IN GAOL

AT Tower Bridge, Miss Sybil Campbell, the magistrate, said to Frank: "Although you have not been convicted before, I cannot treat this as a first offence. You stole every day." She sent him to prison for 12 months.

They let Frank out, grey-faced, dazed. I thought of those who stole because they were poor; and of others who did so to keep up with the neighbours. Frank's plight seemed not much less pitiable, who had stolen that his wife might still run the car which had been part of her dowry, and live to that extent in the style to which she had been accustomed before her marriage.

'What's Her Line?' Solution
SOURBETTE
London Express Service

ANTI-SMUGGLING LAUNCH



This 58 ft. fast patrol launch undergoing tests on the River Thames, London, is to be used by the Ceylon Customs service on anti-smuggling duties and will operate principally among the islands off Ceylon. The boat is equipped with radar, radar-telephone and searchlight.—London Express.

McCarthy Act Poses Problem

Washington, Mar. 30. President Eisenhower and the State Department remained silent today on the challenging action of Senator Joseph McCarthy in negotiating his own agreement with certain Greek shipowners to stop all trade with China.

Observers here said today that the agreement which the strongly anti-Communist Senator made public yesterday appeared to go considerably beyond the limits of Congressional action.

Senator McCarthy made the agreement as Chairman of an investigating Congressional subcommittee though the Committee has not taken action on the matter.

The Greek shipowners controlling 242 merchant ships were acting as individuals. This fact infuriated Senator McCarthy from prosecution under the Logan Act which forbids United States citizens to negotiate in certain ways with foreign governments.

The agreement under which the shipowners said they would break off all trade with China and North Korea has aroused considerable interest here for constitutional reasons.

PREROGATIVE

Under the constitution, executive action is the exclusive prerogative of the President and his Administration. Congress is limited to making laws, conducting investigation with a view to making laws, and approving treaties and appointments initiated by the President.

Senator McCarthy cannot enforce his agreement except by recourse to the third part of the United States Government, the Judiciary and the Law Courts. His powers of investigation how the shipowners keep the agreement are also limited by the comparatively small funds which Senator McCarthy's committee has been voted.

The Senator's committee is due to begin public hearings tomorrow in an investigation to trade with China. He said yesterday that the shipowners with whom he had made the agreement would not be subpoenaed to appear before the committee.

But he said he plans to call for an investigation of those shipowners who have not yet negotiated with him.—Reuter.

Pre-Easter Weddings To Beat Income Tax Man

London, Mar. 30. Hundreds of engaged couples all over Britain have brought forward their Easter weddings a week—to beat the tax man.

Easter Monday is usually the most popular day of the year for getting married. But this year it falls on April 6, the beginning of the new income tax year.

So a wedding before Easter, coming at the end of the tax year, will be worth quite a

valuable repayment of income tax to a bridegroom.

The rebate represents the substantial difference between what a bachelor pays in tax in the course of a year and what a married man pays.

And knowing how much the money means to newly weds, churchmen have agreed on this occasion to perform marriages during Lent.—Reuter.

Preparing New Atomic Explosion

Las Vegas, Mar. 29. Scientists and military men hastened final preparations today for another top secret atomic explosion at the Southern Nevada atom-bomb test site, the third such blast of the 1953 spring series.

Secrecy shrouded the preparations for the detonation, expected to be touched off shortly before dawn on Tuesday, weather permitting.

The only concrete fact known was that the Army's new monster cannon was not to be fired next week. That test is set for some time in May and it was known that the two giant 280-mm howitzers to be used in the test have not yet arrived at the atomic test site, 75 miles northwest of here.

The scientists who will conduct the experiment refused to discuss its nature entirely. All that was known definitely was that another nuclear device would be exploded on top of one of the three 300-foot steel towers which remain in Yucca Flat, or else it would be dropped inside a bomb casing by an Air Force bomber.

The two atomic explosions set off earlier during the present test series, one on March 17 and the other one week later, involved nuclear devices exploded on top of the 300-foot steel towers.

The present series is expected to include ten atomic bursts, climaxed by the first firing of a live atomic shell fused to burst in mid-air over fortifications, bridges and other test structures being built at Frenchman's Flat. The test site includes two firing areas, Yucca Flat and Frenchman's Flat.

More than 1,000 troops are expected to participate in the test set for Tuesday, including both those who will participate in an atomic manoeuvre and those who will be observers only.

As yet undisclosed number of aircraft will also take part to aid in the photographing and measurement of the nuclear burst and as part of the Air Force's expanding programme of indoctrinating combat aircraftmen in present day atomic warfare.—United Press.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. Programme summary: 6.55 Children's Hour (Studio)—More about Butterflies by El Lewis Clarke. "Our last day in Wales" (BBC7S): 6.55, Portuguese Hall Hour (Studio): 7.00, World News and News Talk (London Relay): 7.15, A Symphony Portrait of Cole-Porter, Orchestra conducted by Guy Lloyd-paerts: 7.40, Artists of the Week—Helen Keown (Mezzo-Soprano), John MacLeod (Tenor), with Piano Accompaniment by Moya Rea (Studio): 7.50, Weather Report: 8.00, Melodrama—Peter Voss and his Orchestral: 8.00, Guest What a Circus (BBC7S): 8.30, Queen What a Circus (BBC7S): 8.30, A Day in the Life of... The Lord Chancellor—A Life of... Vincent Simon (BBC7S): 9.05, Queen's Hall Light Orchestra: 9.30, Concerto in C Major (Haydn)—Symphony Orchestra (Volini) and the Philharmonia Orch. cond. by Walter Susskind: 10.00, Chanson Française—Zith, Flute and Georges Quetay: 10.15, James Stephens in a reading from his book "The Crook of Gold" (BBC7S): 10.30, Dancing Time—With Lou Preager and his Orchestra: 10.50, Weather Report: 11.00, News Item (Recorded London Relay): 11.15, Goodnight Music: God Save The Queen: 11.30, Close down.

CHINA PROVIDENT HAS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Despite general trade conditions and restrictions, the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., enjoyed a successful year, reported the Chairman, Major S. M. Churn, at today's annual meeting. The profit was only a little over five per cent less than in 1951.

He disclosed that the company had had a "claim free" year. Plans for the future included the erection of a six-storey modern warehouse at West Point. It would be fitted with modern cargo-handling machinery and a small cold storage plant.

Addressing shareholders, Major Churn said:

The net profit on operation for the year was \$1,252,771, being \$73,800 or 5.8% less than for 1951, which, in view of the general trade conditions and restrictions during the year, must be quite up to, or even above your expectations.

Provision for depreciation has been made on the usual scale and the ordinary provisions made to provisions for Typhoon, Marine and Claims Losses.

The sum of \$120,000 has been transferred to Provision for Taxation, which account, after paying all taxation up to 31st March, 1952, and Property Tax to 31st March, 1953, has an adequate balance to cover taxation to 31st March, 1954, at current rates.

I am pleased to report that the year under review was again "claim free", and the only debit to the new account was a small ex gratia payment of \$188 in respect of a discrepancy which was not noted when the cargo was received.

DIVIDEND & BONUS

Later in this meeting, your Directors will propose that the dividend and bonus to shareholders be at the same rates as those for the previous two years, i.e. dividend at \$1 per share, and bonus 70 cents per share, both free of tax, equal to 34% per annum of the last 12 months. The dividend and bonus will be paid to shareholders by cheque or by bank transfer, and will be subject to your approval that a bonus of \$125,000 be paid to the staff at the discretion of the Directors, and I am sure these proposals will meet with your approval. It is proposed to carry forward to the new account \$1,573,000, two lakhs more than was brought forward from the previous year.

During the year under review, a new issue was successfully made of one new share for every two held, at a premium of \$5 per share. The expenses of this new issue have been written off. The premium on these shares, \$1,357,300, together with the balance of \$2,057,300, have been appropriated by your Board shown in the first section of the Appropriation Account, to strengthen further our already strong reserve position.

During the year, our Abercrombie property was sold for \$250,000, showing a profit over book value of \$242,314, which has been credited to the Appropriation Account.

The new issue, above referred to, has raised the Issued Capital to just over \$4 million, \$10,700,000 of shareholders' funds, and has improved the cash position by some \$2 million.

You will note that our provisions for Marine and Typhoon Losses now stand at nine lakhs, while the Investment Fluctuation provision is equal to the market value of investments held at the date of the Balance Sheet.

FUTURE PLANS

Our plans for the future include the erection of a six-storey modern warehouse adjoining our existing Godowns Nos. 17 & 18 which are situated on the most desirable section of the waterfront at West Point. This property will be fitted with modern cargo handling machinery, a small cold storage plant and other floors with a new type of ventilating system which will change the air eight times per hour. The building, now in course of construction and should be ready in July next. We also plan, in the near future, to replace the temporary buildings erected in 1948 with permanent modern structures and cargo handling plant.

You will be pleased to learn that our subsidiary company, the Sandakan Light & Power Co. (1922) Ltd., is now on a dividend paying basis and has recently made a new issue to finance its expansion.

The Staff Provident Funds now stand at \$450,000. I regret to record the death of our former colleague, Mr. D. H. Blake, and extend to his family our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Before concluding, I wish to express to all members of our staff our appreciation for their loyal service during the year under review.

Seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, Mr. E. R. Childie, said: On behalf of my fellow shareholders, I congratulate the Board

Fighting In Korea

New Chinese Assault

Thrown Back

Seoul, Mar. 30.

Seven hundred Chinese assaulted the outpost Vegas from three directions just after dark on Sunday. Defending US Marines hurled them back.

Entrenched Marine defenders threw up light flares and turned searchlights on the Reds. The Leathernecks also called on to their own gunners to put down "boxtime" artillery fire—a curtain of artillery shells on all four sides of the hill.

Less than two hours after the Chinese jumped off they were forced to retreat.

At a late hour on Sunday night, Associated Press correspondent Forrest Edwards reported everything "under control" at Vegas and the hill quiet for the moment at least.

In all Edwards said the Marines and Chinese have fought up and down the blasted slope of Vegas eight times since the Reds struck in force on Thursday night and wrested the hill from the Marines.

AIR SUCCESSES

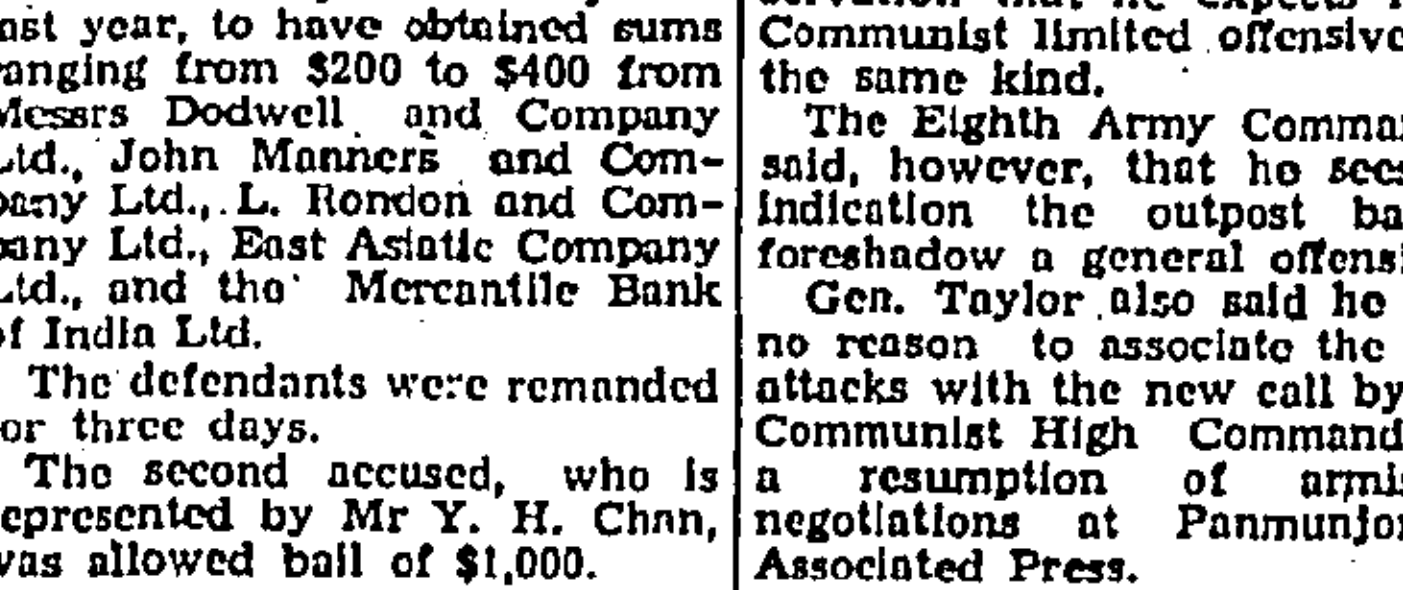
Palm Sunday provided a good day also for American Sabre jet pilots Fifth Air Force headquarters said they blasted four Communist MIGs from the skies over northwest Korea and sent a fifth limping home riddled with machinegun bullets.

The dogfights also produced the 30th jet ace of the Korean War. Lieut-Col George L. Jones of Vero Beach, Florida.

The heavy ground fighting of the past week at Vegas and at Old Baldy drew from Lieut. Gen. Maxwell Taylor the observation that he expects more Communist limited offensives of the same kind.

The Eighth Army Commander said, however, that he sees no indication the outpost battles foreshadow general offensive. Gen. Taylor also said he sees no reason to associate the Red attacks with the new call by the Communist High Command for a resumption of armistice negotiations at Panmunjom.—Associated Press.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



From the Bombay Times of February 2, a yarn that—"The China Mail" arrived yesterday morning, brings us little or no intelligence of any importance. There appears to have been a pretty smart shock of earthquake, at Hong-kong and Shanghai, on the 16th December.

As some of the residents here may question the accuracy of this intelligence, especially the latter part of it, it is to be regretted our contemporary did not quote his authority. We feel assured he did not glean his information from the local papers—but perhaps the editor supposes Hongkong to be merely another name for Nanking.

INACCURATE QUOTE

The new Netherlands Ambassador to Australia, Mr. A. M. L. Winkelman, said today that the Dutch Government has no intention of bartering Dutch New Guinea for good relations with Indonesia.

No New Guinea Barter

The Dutch intend to stay in Western New Guinea to develop it for the good of its inhabitants. Mr. Winkelman added on arrival at Fremantle on his way to Canberra.—Reuter.

Some dumb girl at school is sending notes to me, Mr. Cuthbert! Will you take 'em home with you so I can call for 'em?

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